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BASIC FIELD MANUAL

VOL. V

TRANSPORT

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE QUARTERMASTER
GENERAL

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to instructions from the War Department, Volume Transport, of the Basic Field Manuals (Tentative), prepared der the direction of the Quartermaster General, in collabora- n with the Chief of Cavalry, Chief of Field Artillery, and ief of Ordnance, is printed with a view to its use for refer- ce and for the purpose of securing constructive criticism as form, text, and data contained therein.

B. F. CHEATHAM,
Major General,
The Quartermaster General.

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CHAPTER I

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SECTION I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Object.—The object of this chapter is to prescribe the means and methods whereby the mounted soldier is trained, in a minimum time, to ride sufficiently well for participation in field service. Due to limited time available, only rudimentary essentials can be covered.

2. Horses.—*a.* When quiet, well-trained horses are available such should be used for recruit instruction in equitation. The schedules appearing below are based on the availability of such horses. The assignment of old horses to recruits should be changed at least once each week.

b. When old horses are not available the recruits must be taught equitation and remount training concurrently. Generally the time required to train and condition the green horse is longer than the time necessary to train the recruit in riding. For this reason, when both man and horse must be trained together, the rate of training of the remount regulates the rate of training of the recruit. The training of the remount is pre-

scribed in chapter 2 and follows in general the sequence of the instruction prescribed in this chapter.

3. **Physical fitness of recruits.**—As a rule recruits are not in good physical condition. Furthermore, riding requires the use of many muscles not heretofore used by the recruit. Overwork of these muscles produces stiffness and soreness, causing muscular contraction, whereas progress in equitation is dependent upon the contrary condition—relaxation. For these reasons, it is essential not to overtax the physical strength of the recruit. In the beginning the work should be mainly at the walk, punctuated by frequent short rest periods. As the recruit develops in physical fitness the trot and gallop periods are gradually extended and the number of rest periods decreased.

4. **Confidence.**—The recruit who has never ridden a horse is often filled with apprehension due to the unaccustomed motion, and the difficulty of controlling his horse—especially at the faster gaits. This apprehension causes the recruit to become anxious and overstrained mentally, his muscles to become taut, and his body so rigid as to be incapable of doing its part easily and efficiently. It is necessary, therefore, that the instructor give his chief attention to combating this nervous tendency. The confidence of the recruit must be gained and held from beginning to end. To accomplish this, instruction should proceed gradually from that which has been mastered to that which is new and more advanced.

5. **The instructor.**—It is essential that the instructor be a skilled and experienced horseman, properly mounted. He should habitually supplement the original explanation of a movement by executing it himself. The instructor should be assisted by one or more noncommissioned officers, the number depending upon the number of recruits to be instructed at one time.

6. **Cautions to instructors.**—*a.* The instructor should first develop the confidence of the recruit, give him a proper seat, and make him supple on the horse. Progress should be regulated by the recruit's capacity so as to exempt him from avoidable accidents.

b. Each new movement is made the object of a particular lesson given to each recruit in turn.

c. The instructor passes frequently from one trooper to another, giving advice, and by constant repetition endeavoring to impress upon the troopers the fundamentals of equitation.

d. The instructor avoids general remarks and unfamiliar terms; in the correction of faults he addresses by name those committing them.

e. For the first lessons it is advantageous for the instructor to remain on foot so as to better explain movements and to correct faults.

f. In all exercises the instructor varies the gait so as not to weary the recruits or horses. The instruction is conducted without hurry. The daily work begins and ends at the walk.

7. Organization of recruits into groups.—The instructor organizes the recruits into squads. Not more than approximately 24 recruits should be trained at one time by one instructor. When the instructor must train more than 16 recruits at one time he should have the assistance of at least two noncommissioned officers.

8. Standard required of trooper.—Upon completion of the the training outlined hereafter each recruit should have attained a reasonably secure seat at all gaits, and, in addition, should be able—

a. To mount and dismount with ease on either side of the horse.

b. To apply correctly the aids whereby the horse is caused to move forward or increase his gait; to halt or decrease his gait; to turn to the right or left, or turn to the right or left about; and to back from the halt.

c. To cover long distances on horseback with the least possible fatigue to the horse and rider.

d. To ride across country.

9. Duration of course.—The length of the course is two weeks, divided into two periods of one week each. For use when more time is available, three supplementary courses of two weeks each are also included. In order to cover satisfactorily the work outlined for the first two weeks it will be necessary for the recruit to receive at least three hours' instruction each day (exclusive of time required for grooming the horse and caring for equipment). The daily work is best divided into morning and afternoon lessons of approximately one and one-half hours each.

SECTION II

FIRST PERIOD

10. Program of daily instruction.—*a.* During the first period the horses are equipped with stripped saddles and single snaffle single rein bridles. The men invariably ride with stirrups and without spurs.

b. The first 45 minutes of each lesson should be conducted in a riding hall. Any remaining time should be spent out of doors in quiet work on the road or in some appropriate phase of cross-country riding.

c. For the first three or four days the instructor should so conduct the work that not more than half the lesson period is devoted to actual riding, the remainder of the period being confined to explanations, saddling and briddling, mounting and dismounting, adjusting and handling reins, etc.

d. The term riding hall, as used herein, includes any inclosed or uninclosed course of corresponding size and shape.

e. Until they have become reasonably proficient in riding the men are required to lead their horses to and from the riding hall.

f. In preparing his daily schedule of work the instructor should be guided by the following:

(1) There is much to be explained to the recruit in detail.

(2) Explanations must be repeated with patience over a period of several days in order to insure that the mind of the recruit grasps and holds them.

(3) The exercises which follow constitute the subject matter for daily lessons; they should generally be used in the sequence in which listed.

(4) Exercises of preceding lessons which have not been mastered are repeated at the beginning of each lesson before proceeding with new exercises.

11. To fold saddle blanket, saddle and bridle, and to unsaddle.—Instruction in saddling, bridling, folding the saddle blanket, adjustment of the saddle and bridle, and unsaddling the horse will be in accordance with the provisions of chapter 3, The Use and Care of Animals.

12. To stand to horse.—*a.* At the command *STAND TO HORSE* each recruit places himself on the near side of the horse, facing to the front and opposite the horse's head. He

takes the position of attention, except that the right hand (nails down) grasps the reins about 6 inches from the bit, the forefinger separating the reins. The bight of the reins rests on the horse's neck near the withers.

b. Being at *STAND TO HORSE* if the command *AT EASE* be given each recruit stands at ease, holding the reins about 18 inches from the bit.

c. At the command *ATTENTION* each recruit resumes the position of *STAND TO HORSE.*

d. To stand to horse on the off side the instructor commands: *OFF SIDE, STAND TO HORSE.* At this command each recruit assumes a position on the off side of his horse corresponding to the position of *STAND TO HORSE*, as described above, substituting right for left, and vice versa.

13. To lead out.—The recruits being at *stand to horse*, to leave the stable or picket line, the instructor commands: *LEAD OUT.* Each recruit, holding his right hand well up and firm, leads his horse, without looking at him, to the place designated by the instructor.

14. To line up (in the riding hall).—As the recruits enter the riding hall the instructor indicates the point where he desires the right recruit to be located and the direction in which the line is to face and commands: *LINE UP.* The recruits form in line at intervals of 3 yards, dressing on the right man, each at *stand to horse*, and with horse correctly disposed perpendicular to the line.

15. To mount.—The recruit being at *stand to horse* the instructor commands: 1. *Prepare to mount*, 2. *MOUNT.*

a. At the command *prepare to mount* the recruit faces to the right, drops the right rein, takes a step to the right so as to be opposite the horse's left shoulder, and then half faces to the rear. He takes the reins in the left hand, with the little finger between them and the bight falling to the off side; adjusts them so that they give a gentle, even bearing on the horse's mouth, and places the left hand on the horse's crest near the withers. He then places the left foot in the stirrup, assisted by the right hand, if necessary, brings the left knee against the saddle, and places the right hand upon the cantle.

b. At the command *MOUNT* the recruit rises by an effort of the right leg aided by the arms. He keeps the left knee bent and firmly pressed against the saddle, the toe depressed, and the

upper part of the body inclined slightly forward in order to keep the saddle from turning. He brings the right foot by the side of the left, changes the right hand to the pommel, passes the right leg, knee bent, over the horse's croup without touching it, and sits down lightly in the saddle. Assisted by the right hand, if necessary, he then places the right foot in the stirrup and takes the reins in one or both hands as instructed.

16. **To hold the single reins in both hands.**—*a.* The recruit takes a rein in each hand in such manner that the rein comes into the hand under the little finger and passes out over the second joint of the forefinger. The thumb is closed on the rein and the bight of the reins falls forward and to the right. The fingers are closed until their tips lightly touch the palms of the hands. The back of each hand is vertical and in prolongation of the forearm. The elbows are low and close to the body. Each forearm, wrist, hand, and rein is in a straight line. The wrists are not contracted nor bent. The hands are about 9 inches apart and remain light, i. e., they maintain a light feel of the horse's mouth, following the vibration of the horse's head by means of an elastic play of the fingers and wrist. The reins are stretched sufficiently to maintain a light contact with the horse's mouth.

b. To shorten the length of the rein the recruit brings the hands together and grasps with the fingers of one hand, above and near the opposite thumb, the rein he desires to shorten. To lengthen a rein the recruit relaxes the grasp of his hand upon the rein, thus permitting the rein to slide through his hand until the desired length of rein is secured.

17. **To dismount.**—The recruits being at the halt, the instructor commands: 1. *Prepare to dismount*, 2. *DISMOUNT.*

a. At the command *prepare to dismount* the recruit passes the reins into his left hand and places that hand on the horse's crest near the withers. He then places the right hand upon the pommel and removes the right foot from the stirrup.

b. At the command *DISMOUNT* the recruit passes the right leg, knee bent, over the croup without touching it. He now changes the right hand to the cantle of the saddle and brings the right foot by the side of the left foot, the left knee being against the saddle and the upper part of the body inclined slightly forward. He next descends lightly on the right foot, which is followed by the left, and takes the position of *stand to horse.*

18. To hold the single reins in one hand.—*a.* The reins being held in both hands, to take the reins in the left hand, the recruit carries the left hand opposite the middle of the body, passes the right rein into the left hand so that it is separated from the left rein by the little finger. The two reins pass out of the left hand over the second joint of the forefinger, the thumb is closed on the reins, and the bight falls forward and to the right. The recruit's right arm falls naturally by his side. His left elbow is carried naturally by his side and his left wrist and hand are in line with his forearm. The recruit's fingers are closed lightly, his nails toward his body, and the back of his hand vertical.

b. To retake the reins in both hands the recruit grasps the right rein with the right hand as before and replaces the hands about 9 inches apart.

c. The recruit takes the reins in the right hand and again in both hands, in a similar manner.

19. To adjust and handle the single reins.—*a.* During the first lessons in riding, the instructor causes the recruits to hold the reins in both hands. After a few days, however, he commences to require them to hold the reins in the left hand and, similarly, in the right hand. He practices them in changing the reins from one hand to another, from both hands to one hand and back again, in lengthening and shortening the reins, in dropping and picking up the reins, and explains thoroughly the positions of the hands and the proper length at which to hold the reins.

b. It should not be forgotten by the instructor that riding with the reins in both hands is a temporary measure for the better control of the horse; that to hold the reins in the right hand is merely a restful change; and that to hold the reins in the left hand is the normal method for the military horseman, the right hand then being free for the use of weapons. Therefore, while the recruit should be made proficient in all methods of holding the reins, he should, as the course of instruction progresses, come to ride more and more with the reins in the left hand.

20. The position of the mounted soldier, or attention.—*a.* The position of the mounted soldier, or attention, should fulfill so far as practicable the following requirements:

(1) The buttocks should be well forward under the rider and bear an equal amount of his weight. The buttocks should never be permitted to bear against the cantle.

(2) The thighs should extend downward and slightly forward. They should rest without constraint upon their flat sides and clasp the horse evenly.

(3) The knees should be bent but without stiffness, and should clasp the horse snugly.

(4) The lower legs should extend downward and slightly backward; they should be in contact with the horse but without pressure.

(5) The ball of the foot should rest easily on the tread of the stirrup, the heel slightly lower than the toe, the ankle relaxed.

(6) If the rider is without stirrups the feet should hang naturally, ankles relaxed.

(7) The upper part of the body should be easy, free, and erect. The spinal column should be supple, especially in the small of the back.

(8) The shoulders should be carried back evenly, but without hollowing or stiffening the back.

(9) The arms should be free, the elbows falling naturally by the side.

(10) The reins should be held in one or both hands in the prescribed manner.

(11) The head should be erect, but without stiffness in the neck.

(12) The eyes should be alert and glancing well to the front.

b. A position fulfilling the above requirements is considered ideal for the military horseman. It is easy and comfortable to both man and horse—a consideration of the highest importance in the prevention of sore backs; it permits the efficient use of the aids in the control of the horse, and it affords a secure seat from which the rider is not easily thrown.

c. The position given is a model to which a well-formed man whose body is suitably proportioned for riding can approximately conform. Others whose legs are round and short or whose bodies are square and thickset can only be expected to adjust themselves as far as possible to the normal position without rendering themselves too uncomfortable or causing themselves undue fatigue or pain. Moreover, many men have

become excellent horsemen whose positions are not and could not be absolutely according to model. Often such men possess other and more compensating qualities as horsemen. All men, however, no matter what their natural aptitudes or degrees of proficiency, are greatly improved in their riding by conscientious efforts to conform to the model position described.

d. The instructor should not demand at once a correct position on horseback. To the recruit the new experiences and sensations are sometimes very fatiguing and discouraging. Even to an experienced rider a suddenly enforced change from old and confirmed habits and positions to new ones is especially trying upon strength, patience, and good temper. The instructor should, therefore, describe the correct seat, hold to it steadfastly as the goal the men are to strive for, but seek to attain it by minor and well-timed corrections and by gradual daily improvement. In this the instructor will be greatly assisted and his men will make rapid progress if he applies the mounted *supplying exercises* in a manner to eliminate individual faults and eventually to mold the men into one characteristic appearance and manner of riding.

21. The aids.—The horse is controlled by the effective use of the legs, the reins, the weight, and the voice. These means of controlling the horse are termed collectively *The aids.*

22. The use of the legs.—Increased pressure of the legs at the rear edge of the girth causes the horse to move forward, to increase his pace, or to change to a faster gait. Their action may also be such as to cause the horse to engage the hind quarters. One leg acting alone and in rear of the girth causes the horse to move his hind quarters to the opposite side. If the increased pressure of the legs is insufficient, the rider should resort promptly to calm but increasingly energetic, successive blows with the legs until the horse responds. The heels should be kept low; heels or spurs should not be used unless the horse fails to obey the legs.

23. The use of the reins.—Increased tension of the reins directly to the rear causes the horse to decrease the pace, to change to a slower gait, to halt, or to back. If the horse is standing still, an action of the reins and legs prepares him to move. A relaxing of the tension of the reins combined with a closing of the legs causes him to move forward, or, if already moving, to increase the speed of the gait. Relaxing the reins

does not mean loosening them so as to lose contact with the horse's mouth. The action of one or both reins toward one side causes the horse to change direction.

24. **The use of the weight.**—Movement of the rider's weight forward tends to cause the horse, if at the halt, to move forward, or, if already moving, to increase the pace or change to a faster gait. Movement of the rider's weight to one side inclines the horse to move in that direction.

25. **The use of the voice.**—The voice is the simplest and yet one of the most effective of all the aids. Its effect lies in the intonation rather than the words or phrases spoken. The low, gentle, soothing tones have a tendency to calm and quiet the horse, whereas the sharp, emphatic, higher-pitched tones have a tendency to excite and encourage him to greater activity. Clucking, a sound made by the combined use of the tongue, the teeth, and the cheek, though not, strictly speaking, a use of the voice, is a method commonly used to encourage the horse to move forward or to move faster. The use of the voice, like the application of any other aid, must be consistent with the effect desired. It must be used with discretion, as excessive or improper use soon renders it of little or no value in training or management.

26. **The use of the aids in combination.**—*a.* An aid is not usually employed singly, but in combination with one or both of the others. One aid does not need to act with as much force if assisted by another. For example, to move forward, or to increase the pace or change to a faster gaint, the legs and weight are used together; to halt, or to decrease the pace or change to a slower gait, the reins and weight are used together, while to change direction the reins, the weight, and the legs may all three be used in combination.

b. In using the aids in combination the rider must be careful that the effect of one aid is not opposed to that of another. If, for instance, the rider is using the reins to slow up or to stop his horse he should not at the same time use the legs in a manner to provoke a forward movement. Similarly, in slowing up or halting the horse, the weight of the body must not be allowed to contradict the action of the reins. For example, to lean the body suddenly forward while using the reins to slow up the horse would more than counterbalance the effect of the reins; the horse would in such case move faster instead of slowing up or halting.

27. Manner of applying the aids.—*a.* The action of the legs, the reins, or the weight should be intermittent and not continuous. If an action of the aids is prolonged and continuous, the horse becomes accustomed to the effect or has time to adjust himself so as to make resistance. Thus, if the reins are steadily pulled and the weight carried well back and is allowed to remain there the horse may shift his own weight forward to readjust his balance and move steadily onward without responding to such action of the reins and weight. If, on the contrary, the reins and the weight are used by quickly repeated applications the effect is very marked and the horse responds at once. A horse soon becomes very obedient if the aids are employed habitually in this manner.

b. In the same way the legs should not act by continuous pressure nor be released altogether but should preserve light contact in the intervals between the quickly repeated blows.

c. All actions of the aids should diminish in intensity when obedience begins and should cease entirely as soon as the desired result is obtained. The rider must not act with the reins when there is no reason therefor; to do so will eventually provoke the horse to pull, to fret, and to seek to increase his pace more and more, whether at the walk, trot, or gallop.

28. To keep the hand steady.—*a.* The hand should be kept low and free from involuntary movement; it should not bob up and down, nor pull, nor "give and take" without a real occasion, but should preserve an even tension on the rein.

b. To keep the hand or hands steady and yet to produce the desired effects of the bit upon the bars of the horse's mouth requires much practice. It is accomplished by a closing and gripping action of the fingers accompanied by an upward twist of the hand at the wrist, without movement of the elbows to the rear and thus "hauling away" on the reins. Drawing the elbows to the rear is pulling.

c. Horses usually go well with riders who keep their hands steady. Riders can acquire the knack of keeping their hands steady only by continuous effort. Steady hands are dependent upon a supple body and a secure seat. The hands will continue to bob up and down, to jerk and pull on the reins so long as the body is stiff, the muscles and nervous system not under control, and the seat unsteady in the saddle. Horses are always restless, ill at ease, and inclined to pull or to run away with such riders.

d. If the gait is the walk the reins should be adjusted long. If the trot be taken, the rider should promptly shorten the reins to suitable length for that gait. If the gallop be taken, the rider may again need to lengthen or shorten the reins to suit the positions of the horse's head and neck at that gait, and, in addition, according to the speed of the gallop. It is by reflection and practice on his own horse and by observation and study of the action of the horses of his comrades that the rider will learn how to do this. The point to be emphasized is that once having adjusted his reins to suit the speed of a given gait, the rider should thereafter refrain from continually shortening and lengthening them or letting the hands bob up and down.

29. The leading rein.—*a.* The leading effect of the rein (the right, for example) is produced when the rider opens the right rein by carrying the hand to the right and leads the horse's head and neck in that direction. This effect is accomplished without increasing the tension on the rein. To turn the horse to the right the rider employs the right leading rein, assisted by the effect of shifting his weight slightly to the right front, and the action of one or both legs.

b. In applying the leading rein (the right, for example) the rider with but little movement of the upper arm and elbow carries the forearm, wrist, and hand to the right. It is important that the rider produce no increased tension on the rein to the rear, that the joint at the wrist be not bent or cramped, that the back of the hand remain in easy prolongation of the forearm, and that the thumb incline outward so that the palm of the hand is slightly upward rather than vertical. Used in this manner the hand is without stiffness and harshness in its effects.

30. The rein of opposition.—*a.* The effect of the rein of opposition is produced when tension to the rear is placed on the reins. This effect of the reins of opposition in conjunction with the weight carried backward intermittently causes the horse to slow up or to stop.

b. In applying the reins of opposition the rider closes his fingers on the reins and repeatedly twists his hand inward and slightly upward without moving his elbows to the rear. This rearward action of the reins should always be accompanied by the simultaneous intermittent effect of the weight.

31. The bearing rein.—*a.* The bearing effect of the rein (the right, for example) is produced when the rider causes the

right rein, without increased tension to the rear, to act toward the left against the right side of the horse's neck. This effect of the right bearing rein in conjunction with the weight carried slightly forward and to the left, accompanied by the action of one or both legs, causes the horse to turn to the left.

b. In applying the bearing rein (the right, for example) the rider carries the hand upward and to the left and presses the stretched rein against the middle part of the horse's neck. It is important that the rider produce no increased tension on the rein to the rear, that the joint at the wrist be not bent nor cramped, that the back of the hand remain in easy prolongation of the forearm, and that the thumb incline forward so that the palm of the hand is slightly upward rather than vertical. Used in this manner the effect of the rein is powerful and causes a sharper turn than the leading rein.

32. Exercises in the use of the reins.—The instructor should introduce daily a few elementary but well-defined exercises in starting and stopping the horse and in turning to the right and left. In the beginning, to turn the horse, the recruit should be required to use the leading reins exclusively. In a few days he should be taught how to use the bearing reins in conjunction with the leading rein in turning the horse and, very soon, the bearing rein alone. Thereafter, even when riding with reins in both hands, the recruit should be required habitually to use the bearing rein for turning his horse.

33. The effect of the snaffle bit.—The effect of the snaffle bit is very mild, because it is received on the lips as well as on the bars of the mouth. Its action tends to raise the head and neck. It gives a comfortable support and is the most efficacious bit for relaxing the jaw by means of vibrations.

34. To gather the horse.—*a.* To gather the horse, having a light pressure of the bit against the horse's mouth and a light feel of the lower legs against his sides, increase the pressure of the lower legs and slightly increase the pressure of the bit against the bars by closing the fingers on the reins. Gathering the horse serves as a signal to attract his attention and to prepare him to respond promptly to the subsequent application of the aids.

b. The gather should always be employed at a preparatory command involving movement. It is, thus, a preparatory signal to the horse. It should always be employed whatever may be

the movement that is to be executed and whatever the gait at which the horse may be moving.

35. To move forward.—1. *Forward*, 2. *MARCH*. Being at the halt, at the command *Forward*, gather the horse. At the command *MARCH* incline the weight of the body forward, slightly relax the fingers of the hand, and use the legs with quickly repeated applications until the horse moves forward.

36. To halt.—*a.* 1. *Squad*, 2. *HALT.*—Being at the walk, at the command *Squad*, gather the horse. At the command *HALT* use the reins of opposition and the weight in combination and with repeated applications until the horse halts.

b. In using the weight the rider should keep the buttocks in the saddle, the legs in their proper place and snugly against the horse, and should carry the upper part of the body backward repeatedly. The head should be well up, the chest expanded, the shoulders free and well back.

c. The weight is not used effectively if the rider stands in the stirrups and lifts his seat out of the saddle, if he pivots on the crotch, if he carries his feet and legs to the front, or if he sinks the chest and advances the head and shoulders. The rider should, accordingly, have careful instruction and much practice in the exact use of the reins and weight in halting his horse.

37. To march to the right (or left) hand.—The rider is said to march to the *right hand* if, being on the track, the center of the riding hall is on his right; to the *left hand* if the center of the riding hall is on his left.

38. To take the track to the right (or left) hand without regard to distance between riders.—*a.* The instructor commands: *TAKE THE TRACK TO THE RIGHT HAND WITHOUT REGARD TO DISTANCE.* Each rider directs his horse toward the track, and upon arriving there enters the track to the right hand. The riders are distributed over the whole length of the track. Each rider should keep his horse at the gait ordered and must preserve a safe distance in rear of the next horse.

b. There should be much work on the track without regard to distance between riders. They are then absolutely independent of each other, the only obligation being to maintain the proper gait and rate and to march to the hand directed when on the track. To avoid crowding the individual riders should

turn out at will, move across the hall, and take the track at a convenient interval on the opposite side.

c. When riding on the track without regard to distance commands are not necessarily complied with at once; each rider, however, conforms to them as quickly as possible, considering his place on the track and the position and readiness of his horse for properly executing the movement. Each rider should choose his ground so as to avoid interfering with his neighbor. Under such conditions thoughtful deliberation in using his aids and exactness of execution of the movement by individuals are the results desired by the instructor, and not merely that all riders shall begin or end a movement at the same moment. Simultaneous execution of movements is a form of collective drill which should not be carried on except for occasional short periods for the purpose of checking results.

39. To take the track with fixed distances.—*a.* The instructor commands: 1. *At the walk (trot or gallop) take the track to the right hand with 4 feet (or so many yards) distance.* 2. *GUIDE ON (SUCH TROOPER).*

The designated rider takes the track, if not already there, at the gait ordered. The other riders move by the shortest line at the gait ordered, or increased gait if necessary, and place themselves, one behind another, with the indicated distance from head to croup. All then ride at the gait and at the distance ordered.

b. In the riding hall the distance from head to croup, when riding with fixed distances, is habitually 4 feet. Out of doors, however, greater distances should frequently be used, such as 10 yards between riders. Such out-of-doors exercises are very useful for training men to control the speed of their horses and to maintain fixed distances from riders or groups of men preceding.

40. To ride in.—*a.* Being in any formation in the riding hall or out of doors, the instructor may command: *RIDE IN.* The riders, moving at the gait at which they were riding, or at the designated gait, and by the shortest line, group themselves about the instructor. Such oral instruction, explanation, or orders as may be appropriate are then given.

b. To resume the ride, the instructor gives the command or direction for the exercise desired. The riders move at the designated gait and by the shortest line to their places.

41. Changes of gait.—*a.* Being at the halt, to gather the horse and to move forward have been described.

b. Being at the walk, to pass to the trot, or, being at the trot, to pass to the gallop, the rider uses the same means as for passing from the halt to the walk.

c. Being at the gallop to pass to the trot or being at the trot to pass to the walk, the rider uses the same means as for passing from the walk to the halt.

d. Changes of gait are habitually made progressively, the walk being taken from the halt, the trot from the walk, the gallop from the trot, and vice versa. For instruction purposes and when necessary in service an increase or decrease of gait may be made more abruptly.

e. A change of gait of *one degree* is an expression which in these regulations means a change from the halt to the walk, from the walk to the trot, from the trot to the gallop, or vice versa.

42. To rise to the trot.—*a.* The horse being at the trot, the rider, to rise to the trot, inclines the upper part of his body forward, supports himself by pressing the knees against the saddle, and then permits himself to be impelled upward by the thrust of the horse's hind leg (the left, for example). He remains up during the stride of the right hind leg and sits down just in time to be impelled upward again by the next thrust of the left hind leg. He continues in this way, avoiding the alternate strides of the trot. In order to catch the rhythm of the movement, the rider's attention should be directed toward the sensation of propulsion produced by the thrust of the hind leg rather than toward the merely supporting effect of the fore leg. It is upon the hind legs of the horse, so to speak, that the rider rises rather than upon the fore legs.

b. When learning to rise to the trot the beginner will make more rapid progress if he strokes his horse's neck at each effort to rise. Stroking the horse's neck assists the rider to catch the rhythm of the motion; it also causes him to incline his body forward at just about the proper angle.

c. In rising to the trot the seat should be raised moderately; contact with the saddle should be resumed gently and without shock; the knees should be pressed snugly against the saddle; the lower legs should be kept still, the ankle joint supple, and the heel slightly lower than the toe. The rider's head should

be up and his eyes glancing well out to the front; he must not lower the head and look down toward the horse's front feet.

43. To change hands.—At the command *CHANGE HANDS* each rider, after having passed the corner of the riding hall and marched a horse length on the long side, directs himself toward the diagonally opposite corner so as to take the track to the opposite hand at about two horse lengths from the corner. Those going in an opposite direction are passed by keeping to the right.

44. By the right (or left) flank.—1. *By the right flank,* 2. *MARCH.* *a.* Being at the halt, at the command *By the right flank,* gather the horse. At the command *MARCH,* move the horse forward and at the same time use the leading rein (or the bearing rein) and the weight in such a manner as to turn the horse to the right. The turn is made on an arc of 90°. The radius of the arc when the horse is at the walk should be 2 yards; when at the trot, 4 yards; when at the gallop, 6 yards. During the movement the body of the horse should follow the arc on which he is turning. If, however, the horse prefers to carry his haunches somewhat to the inside of the curve, especially when at the faster gaits, the rider should not oppose it. But if, on the contrary, the horse carries his haunches to the outside of the curve his balance is adversely effected and the rider should oppose such action by using the left leg more strongly and slightly further back than the right leg.

In the first lesson in turning by the flank the rider uses the leading rein. Later he is taught to use the leading rein, assisted by the bearing rein; later the bearing rein alone, first with the reins in both hands, then in one hand.

b. By the left flank is executed by similar commands and means.

45. Right (or left) oblique.—This movement is executed in the same manner as *By the right or left flank,* except that each rider turns his horse through an arc of only 45°.

The command is: 1. *Right (or left) oblique,* 2. *MARCH.* To resume the original direction: 1. *Forward,* 2. *MARCH.*

46. The about.—At the command 1, *Right (or left) about,* 2. *MARCH,* each rider turns his horse until he finds himself facing in the opposite direction and then moves to his new front.

The turn should be made on the arc of a circle whose radius is 2 yards at the walk, 4 yards at the trot, and 6 yards at the gallop.

47. Cross-country riding.—That time of each lesson not used in the riding hall or in riding on the road is utilized in riding cross country. For this instruction the following details govern.

a. Terrain.—The unevenness of the ground selected should not be great. All fences, ditches, logs, and artificial obstacles are avoided.

b. Gaits.—The gait should be principally at the walk, varied by short trots on selected ground, leading, and short halts for the purpose of readjusting saddle equipment. The speed of the regulation gaits should be carefully maintained by the instructor. It is highly important that the walk be not so fast as to cause restlessness and jigging and that the trot be at the rate of 8 miles an hour. The attention of the recruits should be directed to these gaits and the importance of maintaining them strongly impressed upon their minds. Abrupt changes in gaits are carefully avoided.

c. Formations.—Starting out habitually in column of twos, the instructor should soon scatter the riders out in flock so as to cause each recruit to ride as an individual. If more than one squad is present, each may be formed in a flock guiding on its own leader, the leader of the base squad guiding on the instructor. The squads may thus be formed in line with 50 to 100 yard intervals between squads or in column of squads with extended distances between squads. Within the squads the formation may be in column of troopers, column of twos, column of fours, line, or as foragers.

48. To fall out.—*a.* The men being dismounted, in line, at the command 1. *By the right (left)*, 2. *FALL OUT*, the man on the right leads his horse directly to the stable or picket line. The other men, in successive order from the right, follow at 4 feet distance until near their places on the picket line or in the stable, when they leave the column and move directly to their respective places. Having secured their horses, the men unsaddle and unbridle, groom their horses, clean their equipment, and place the latter as prescribed.

b. To hasten the movement the instructor may command 1. *By the right and left*, 2. *FALL OUT*. The men on the right and left of the line lead their horses directly to their places

on the picket line or in the stable, followed in succession by the men on their right and left, successively.

c. If the men are in line facing their respective places on the picket line, the command *FALL OUT* may be given. Each man then moves directly forward to his place on the picket line.

d. If the men are dismounted, in column of troopers, or in any other similar formation, at the command *FALL OUT* the men tie their horses on the picket line or in the stable as directed and in an orderly manner.

49. To stand to heel.—The horses being tied on the picket line or in their respective stalls in the stable, at the command *STAND TO HEEL* each man stands at attention 1 yard in rear of and facing his horse. The horses are then inspected by the instructor.

50. To dismiss.—The instruction period being concluded, the men are ordered to *FALL IN*. They are then marched to the organization parade in front of their quarters and are there dismissed.

SECTION III

SECOND PERIOD

51. Program of daily instruction.—*a.* The horses are equipped with bit and bridoon and the recruits habitually wear spurs.

b. The recruits are given some instruction in riding without stirrups. Not to exceed 15 minutes of each lesson should be used for riding in this manner. The length of trot periods without stirrups should not exceed five minutes.

c. No restriction is placed upon the instructor as to the relative amount of time to be devoted to work in the riding hall and to instruction in cross-country riding.

d. The instructor is also freed from any restriction relative to the amount of actual riding given in each lesson. In this matter the instructor should be guided by the physical condition of the recruits and the fact that overwork is productive of more harm than underwork.

e. The amount of instruction in jumping given during the second period will be strictly limited so as not to materially interfere with the instruction of the recruit in the other work prescribed. The object of the instruction in jumping given

during this period is to enable the recruit when riding cross country to negotiate obstacles such as small ditches and logs.

f. The exercises prescribed for the first week's training in equitation are repeated during the second week. In addition the following exercises will be utilized for advancing the recruit's training.

52. Adjustment of bit and bridoon.—The recruit is instructed in the fitting and adjustment of the bit and bridoon as prescribed in chapter 3, The Use and Care of Animals.

53. To hold and handle the double reins.—*a. To hold the double reins in left hand.*—The rider hangs the bights of the reins on the thumb of his right hand in such manner that the bight of the snaffle reins rest upon the bight of the curb reins. He then carries his left hand in front of his body, back of the hand to the front, and inserts the little finger between the left snaffle and left curb reins (the snaffle passing underneath little finger), the third (ring), finger between the left curb and right curb reins, and the second finger between the right curb and the right snaffle reins. He closes his hand lightly and in such a manner that the reins come out of his hand between the thumb and forefinger. He slides the left hand to its proper position and, with the assistance of the right hand, adjusts the reins evenly and to proper length. With his left thumb he presses the reins forward and down upon the second joint of the forefinger and drops the bights of the reins to the right over the horse's shoulder. He drops his right arm to his side. The position of the bridle hand is now the same as that described for the single rein.

b. To hold the double reins in right hand.—The rider inserts the fingers of his right hand between the reins so that the reins are in inverse order to that prescribed for the left hand; the right snaffle rein now passes underneath the right little finger. The position of the hand is the same as that described for the single rein.

c. To hold the double reins in both hands.—The reins being held in one hand, the rider carries the other hand, back of the hand up, just in front of the bridle hand and so that the little finger is above the reins. He inserts the little finger between the snaffle and curb rein he wishes to grasp so that the snaffle rein will pass underneath. He adjusts all reins evenly and to proper length, then separates his hands until they are about 9

inches apart and in the position described for holding the single reins in both hands.

d. Practice in adjusting and handling the double reins.—The recruits are given much practice in changing the double reins from one hand to the other, taking them in both hands, taking a single rein in one hand while three are held in the other hand, and in taking the snaffle reins in the right hand and the curb reins in the left hand. When riding with all the reins in, for example, the left hand, the rider sometimes needs to assist temporarily with the right hand. To do this he reaches forward with the right hand and seizes the right snaffle or right curb rein and holds it in the usual manner. The left hand allows this rein to be drawn forward 3 or 4 inches but does not release it. When released by the right hand this rein is adjusted as before.

e. Manner of holding the reins during rests and at route order.—During rests and while riding at *route order* the recruits are required to frequently change the manner of holding the reins. The instructor explains to the men that the purpose of these changes is to rest their own arm and shoulder muscles and to give an equally restful change to the muscles of the horse's head and neck.

54. The effect of the curb bit.—The effect of the curb bit is much more severe than that of the snaffle, because its action occurs almost entirely on the bars of the horse's mouth; the horse's lips and tongue ameliorate its pressure but little. This pressure acts downward and tends to lower the horse's head and neck. If the pressure of the curb bit is maintained for a long time, it becomes painful to the horse; also the bars of the mouth become numb, the curb chain stops circulation, and the horse's mouth becomes deadened to any action of the bit. This bit should not, therefore, be used continuously for long periods. Generally best results are achieved when the curb and snaffle bits are used in conjunction.

55. The use and effect of the bit and bridoon.—The instructor explains and illustrates to the men the following three methods of using the bits of the double bridle.

a. The horse may be ridden with a light and equal pressure of both the curb and snaffle bits. This is the method used at drill, on the march, and in cross-country riding or jumping. It is the method most commonly used. Riding in this manner, the

rider may, on occasion, take the curb reins in the left hand and the snaffle reins in the right. This method is often found useful in the management of a hard-mouthed, stiff-necked horse. If the rider lightly alternates the tension of the curb and snaffle, the sensation thus produced on the bars of the mouth is very effective. When so used the bit and bridoon bring about the gradual relaxation of the muscles of the jaw and the poll and, as a result, the horse becomes light and obedient. The rider may also, on occasion, take three reins in the left hand and the right snaffle in the right hand. With the reins held in this manner the rider, by gentle vibrations of the right snaffle rein, causes the horse to relax the muscles of his jaw and poll, or by an upward effect of the right snaffle rein causes the horse to raise his head when carrying it too low, or by using the right snaffle rein as a bearing rein or leading rein renders sudden and powerful assistance to the left hand when riding with the reins in one hand. The last instance named finds valuable application when in the charge or the mêlée the trooper rides with the reins in the left hand and the saber or pistol in the right hand. The soldier can then reach forward with the right hand and grasp the snaffle rein for momentary use in maintaining or regaining control of his horse.

b. An exceptional method is to ride the horse on the snaffle alone, the curb reins swinging loose. This is the method used with horses that arch the neck unduly, that are behind the bit, that are nervous and restless and will not walk, or that have tender mouths.

c. The third method is to ride the horse on the curb bit alone, the snaffle reins swinging loose. This method may be used by the soldier in the mounted charge and on occasions of excitement and stress for the effective control of the horse.

56. The use of the spur.—The spur should not be used at all if the same result can be obtained by the use of the calf of the leg. For the majority of riders and horses the blunt spur is to be preferred to the one with rowel. The latter is often a severe instrument, which should only be worn by experienced riders. The spur should be used just in rear of the girth and with a series of successive touches rather than a constant pressure. These should cease as soon as the horse obeys. The shank of the spur is of such length that the horse can be touched by the rider simply rotating the ankle without depress-

ing the toe or raising the heel. The spur is properly adjusted when the straps hold it snugly in place and parallel to the ground at the height of the top of the boot or shoe counter.

57. To ride without stirrups.—*a.* Riding without stirrups when properly conducted is of great value in training recruits to ride. It develops his balance, confirms and strengthens his seat in the saddle, and increases the strength and pliancy of his muscles.

b. When riding without stirrups the gaits should be the walk, the slow trot, or the gallop. If the trot is faster than 6 miles an hour, it will, by its roughness, cause excessive weariness. soreness, and abrasions, thereby defeating the object in view.

c. The recruits should now be able to ride without stirrups for about 15 minutes of each instruction period. To avoid undue fatigue to the riders the instructor will frequently change the gait and exercise.

d. It is best not to cross stirrups. The upturned stirrups straps usually injure the muscles of the thigh. Stirrup straps should be unbuckled and the stirrups and straps entirely removed from the saddle.

e. In riding without stirrups the rider seeks, by sitting his horse correctly, by relaxing all unnecessary tension of muscles throughout the body, and by following pliantly the rhythm of the horse's motion, to relieve his body from constraint and shock. To do this the rider keeps his thighs in their correct position and does not extend them downward so as to ride on his crotch; he keeps his lower legs snugly in place behind the girth, without stiffening the knee or ankle joints; he sits deep in the middle of the saddle, with his buttocks well underneath his body; and he inclines the upper part of his body slightly backward in order to insure relaxation and pliancy in the region of the loins. The abdominal muscles should not be loose and flabby; they should be "tucked up" so as to draw in the waist at the abdomen and thus assist in retaining the outward curve of the spine. The muscles of the arms and shoulders should be without constraint but should not become so loose as to detract from an appearance of form in the upper body. The upper body should be held easily and gracefully erect, the shoulders square, the chest well out, the neck well postured, the head up, and the eyes glancing well to the front.

58. To pass from the front to the rear of the column.—*a.* Being on the track in column of troopers, at the walk, the

instructor commands: 1. *First trooper from front to rear,* 2. *MARCH, 2 NEXT.* At the first command the leading rider gathers his horse. At the command, *march,* he leaves the column by the right or left about, according to whether he is marching to the right or left hand, moves parallel to the column, and enters it again at the rear by another about. The riders in succession execute the same movement at the command *next,* which is repeated by the instructor until all the troopers have passed from front to rear.

b. The instructor may vary this exercise; for example, he may cause the first rider, at the command, *march,* to move straight forward at the increased gait and, passing entirely around the circuit of the track, rejoin the column at the rear.

59. Increasing and decreasing the pace.—*a.* Exercises in increasing and decreasing the pace are valuable for the following reasons:

(1) They afford excellent practice in the use of the aids.

(2) They teach the rider how to control the speed of his horse so that he can keep his horse in proper position with reference to other riders.

(3) They improve the balance and discipline of the horse, thus increasing the comfort of the rider.

b. In executing the following exercises the instructor emphasizes the importance of a secure seat, steadiness of legs, a sense of balance or accord between rider and horse, and tactful use of the aids. The riders will experience their greatest difficulty in attempting to slow up horses which seek continually to increase the pace. In such cases the timely employment of vibrations of the right snaffle rein or of divisions of support will forestall many resistances of the horse.

(1) Being at the walk, to cause the horse to walk faster, the rider increases the pressure of his legs and inclines his weight slightly forward. As the horse extends his neck and head the rider, without allowing the reins to become slack, increases the length of the reins. The hands are kept low and steady.

(2) Being at a fast walk, to cause the horse to walk slower, the rider increases the tension in the reins and inclines the weight slightly to the rear. The hands are kept low and steady. Care must be taken not to draw in the horse's head and neck too much, as such action usually causes the horse to fret, jig, and prance. With nervous horses the increased tension on the reins

must be applied very gently and no stronger than is absolutely necessary.

(3) Being at the regulation trot, to cause the horse to trot faster, the rider applies the same aids as in subparagraph (1) above.

(4) Being at the trot, to cause the horse to trot slower, the rider applies the same aids as in (2) above. In executing this movement, if for any reason the rider desires more collection in his horse, this collection is secured by increasing the pressure of the legs.

(5) Being at the regulation gallop, to cause the horse to gallop faster, the rider applies the same aids as in subparagraph (1) above.

(6) Being at the gallop, to cause the horse to gallop slower, the rider uses the same aids as prescribed in subparagraph (4) above. If the horse is galloping at or near full speed and it is desired to bring him down to the regulation gallop quickly, this can generally be accomplished most easily by suddenly depriving the horse of the steady support of the reins and using the reins and the weight thereafter intermittently and in combination.

60. To move backward.—*a.* The command is: 1. *Backward*, 2. *MARCH*, 3. *HALT*. At the command *Backward* the rider gathers his horse. At the command *March* the rider uses the direct reins of opposition and the weight in combination until the horse takes one or two steps backward, after which the rider ceases to use his weight and continues to use the reins of opposition to cause the horse to continue to back. If the horse backs too fast or lowers his croup too much the rider's weight is carried slightly forward to counteract this tendency. At the command *Halt* the action of the reins of opposition ceases, the weight is carried forward, and the legs are used sufficiently to stop the backward movement. In training, the halt should always be immediately followed by two or three steps forward.

b. Backing, like the turn on the forehand, may cause the horse to "get behind the bit"; it may also cause serious injuries to the hocks. Therefore, its use should be limited to strict necessity; that is, for the satisfactory instruction of the soldier and the horse. Thereafter the horse is backed only when necessary.

61. To ride at will.—*a.* The instructor commands: 1. At the walk (trot or gallop), 2. *RIDE AT WILL.* The riders scatter out in the interior of the riding hall, or over a designated area if out of doors, ride at the gait ordered, and execute on their own initiative such movements and exercises as the instructor specifies. When riders meet each keeps to the right.

b. Horses and men alike seek companionship; they prefer to move in a body and do not like to act alone. Although both require collective training, they need far more to be taught to go ahead as individuals. Riding without regard to distances should be the rule both indoors and outdoors during instruction in equitation, and riding with *fixed distances* should be the *exception.*

62. Suppling exercises.—*a.* The mounted suppling exercises, like all physical-culture exercises, depend for their good results upon the regularity and thoroughness with which they are practiced daily. Thus, long hours or intensity of application on one day do not compensate for the lack of practice on previous days. Furthermore, to produce the best results these exercises must be performed correctly, for, if performed incorrectly, they may serve only to confirm existing faults. Hence it is highly important that the instructor and the recruit alike have well in mind the object in view in each instance. Accordingly, in taking up a new exercise, the instructor gathers the class about him and briefly explains and illustrates the exercise. He then causes them, at the halt, to practice accurately the exercise just explained. When understood by the riders and systematically applied by the instructor the suppling exercises produce quick results. They may be executed either with or without stirrups.

b. The gaits employed during the suppling exercises should be the walk, the slow trot, and the gallop. The gallop should be employed very early in the instruction and used chiefly thereafter, because it is the most favorable gait for suppling the rider's loins. The gallop can be maintained for long periods without undue fatigue. The slow trot, on the contrary, is not only trying to inexperienced riders but, if prolonged, may cause such abrasions of the skin and soreness of the muscles as to retard rather than promote progress. There should, nevertheless, be much work at the slow trot, but for short periods only.

c. The instructor causes the riders to take the track without regard to distance; if they march to the right hand they hold

the reins in the left hand; if to the left hand they hold the reins in the right hand. Thereafter they take the reins in one or both hands, drop and retake them as necessary, without command.

d. Occasionally, as a temporary measure, the instructor may cause the riders to knot the reins and release them entirely. Habitually, however, the reins should be held while doing the suppling exercises; the rider is then cultivating a good hand in conjunction with a good seat. Moreover, the instructor is then able to point out instances illustrating the effect produced upon the bridle hand by the stiffness and bobbing of the body due to a poor seat.

e. While practicing an exercise the recruit should pay great attention to the position and steadiness of the bridle hand and the suppleness of the wrist, elbow, and shoulders. He should endeavor to coordinate and to separate his movements; thus, while moving or using one part of the body, he should neither unconsciously nor nervously contract the muscles in an unrelated part of the body nor move the bridle hand.

f. The recruits being suitably disposed on the track at the gait ordered, the instructor places himself near to and facing the track and gives the command for the desired suppling exercises. At the instructor's command, *AS YOU WERE*, each rider discontinues the exercise. The exercises are not performed in unison.

g. The instructor in his observations and criticisms confines his attention chiefly to the riders passing in front of him. Those riders who are beyond the view of the instructor are then enabled, with less self-consciousness, to recover their equilibrium and to adopt corrective measures.

h. The instructor should give his commands, observations, and criticisms in such a manner as to be easily heard and understood, but he should avoid shouting or scolding. When prolonged or special explanations are necessary the rider in question should be required to fall out of the column and report to the instructor. If several riders are involved, the instructor should assemble the whole column in order that all may profit from his instructions.

i. The suppling exercises have for their object the attainment of strength, pliancy, and easy control in the parts of the body most affected in riding. These are the neck, shoulders, loins, hip joints, knees, and ankles.

j. The following exercises are employed:

(1) *To supple the neck.—a.* The object of neck exercises is to combat rigidity of position due to the contraction of muscles in the region of the neck.

(*b*) The instructor commands: *ROTATE THE NECK.* Each rider slowly turns the head and eyes as far as possible—first, to the right; then, without pause, to the left. The exercise thus continues until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE,* whereupon each rider ceases the exercise and resumes the initial position.

(*c*) The instructor commands: *FLEX THE NECK.* Each rider slowly carries the head as far as possible upward and backwards and then, without pause, as far as possible forward and downward. The exercise is thus continued until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE.*

(2) *To supple the shoulders.*—(*a*) The object of the shoulder exercises is to combat rigidity of position due to contraction of the muscles in the region of the shoulders and to cultivate coordination of muscular effort.

(*b*) The instructor commands: *ROTATE THE RIGHT (LEFT) ARM VERTICALLY.* Each rider extends the arm straight upward, wrist and hand relaxed; without pause, he then carries the arm to the rear, downward, forward, and upward in such a manner as to describe, with uniform movement, a vertical circle. The exercise is thus continued until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE,* whereupon each rider ceases the exercises and resumes the initial position.

(3) *To supple the loins.—a.* The object of the following exercises is to give the rider practice in rotating and flexing the body in the region of the loins. The movements should be executed in such a manner as gradually to bring about the desired result—suppleness.

(*b*) The instructor commands: *SWING THE RIGHT (LEFT) ARM FROM FRONT TO REAR, HORIZONTALLY.* Each rider extends the arm straight to the front, fingers extended, palms upward. He then, without pause and by rotating the body in the region of the loins, swings the shoulders and arm to the right, the arm moving in a horizontal plane until the hand is over the horse's croup, the eyes following the hand. Each rider thus continues the exercise, swinging the shoulders and arm in horizontal plane, by rotating the body at the waist, until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE.*

(*c*) The instructor commands: *STROKE THE HORSE ON THE RIGHT (LEFT) SHOULDER WITH THE RIGHT (LEFT) HAND.* Each rider, by flexing the body at the waist, leans slightly forward and downward and gently strokes the horse on the shoulder until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE.*

(*d*) The instructor commands: *STROKE THE HORSE ON THE LEFT (RIGHT) SHOULDER—WITH THE RIGHT (LEFT) HAND.* Each rider, by rotating the body in the region of the loins, carries the hand over the reins and downward to a position opposite the designated shoulder of the horse. He then gently strokes that shoulder until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE.*

(*e*) The instructor commands: *STROKE THE HORSE ON THE LEFT (RIGHT) SHOULDER AND THE RIGHT (LEFT) HAUNCH WITH THE RIGHT HAND.* Each rider, in the same manner as in preceding exercises, strokes the horse on the designated shoulder with the designated hand and then, without pause, while rotating the body in the region of the loins, turns the shoulders and arm to the right (left) rear, the eyes following the hand, and strokes the horse on the designated haunch. He thus continues the exercise, alternately stroking the horse on the shoulder and haunch, until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE.*

(*f*) The instructor commands: *SWING LOW TO THE FRONT WITH THE RIGHT (LEFT) HAND.* Each rider extends the arm vertically upward, palm to the front, leans to the right (left) and downward by flexing the body at the waist, and makes a low sweeping stroke from the rear to the front; he then resumes the initial position of the body, the arm extended vertically upward. With a slight pause, he thus continues the exercise until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE.*

(*g*) The instructor commands: *RAISE THE THIGHS.* Each rider, inclining the upper part of the body slightly backward, raises the thighs only so much as is necessary to detach them and the lower legs from contact with the saddle. The rider thus balances on the buttocks, which should be pushed well underneath the body. This exercise requires the rider to flex the body at the loins in order to follow the motion of the horse and to minimize the effect of the shock. Riders should not be required to maintain this position continuously; they take and retake it, according to their ability to do so without falling.

The exercise ceases at the instructor's command: *AS YOU WERE.*

(4) *To supple the hip joints.*—(*a*) The object of the following exercises is to supple the muscles in the region of the hips and flatten the inner thigh surfaces of the rider's legs.

(*b*) The instructor commands: *ROTATE THE RIGHT (LEFT) THIGH.* Each rider removes the thigh from against the saddle, straightens the leg and carries it back until vertical. He then rotates the thigh at the hip joint by turning the knee inward, and, pressing the thigh hard against the saddle, draws it forward to its normal position. The friction of the thigh against the saddle presses backward the muscles underneath and back of the thigh, thus permitting the femur to rest solidly against the saddle. The lower leg is replaced in its normal position. The foot should hang naturally, without constraint. No attempt should be made to turn the foot either outward or inward. Its position in this respect is dependent upon, and a natural consequence of, the flatness of the inner surfaces of the thigh and the degree of its rotation inward.

(*c*) This exercise should habitually be given at the halt; if executed while the horse is in motion serious injury may occur in the region of the hip joint. The riders, being at the halt, the instructor directs them to rotate the right thigh and carefully fix it in position; next, similarly, the left thigh. He then causes he riders to take the walk, the slow trot, or the gallop, during which they should try to confirm the new position. After a few moments, however, the riders become shaken out of the exact positions assumed. The instructor then brings them to the halt, directs them to again rotate one thigh, then the other, and to fix their position, after which he causes them again to move forward.

(5) *To supple the knees.*—(*a*) The object of the following exercises is to render the knee joints supple, combat the involuntary contractions to which the knee joints are liable, and cultivate the coordination of muscular effort.

(*b*) The instructor commands: *FLEX THE RIGHT (LEFT) KNEE.* Each rider, removing the lower leg from against the horse, carries it backward and upward until horizontal and then, without pause, returns it to the normal position. The exercise is thus continued until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE.*

(6) *To supple the ankles.*—(*a*) The object of the following exercises is to assist the rider in overcoming involuntary contraction and stiffness in the ankle joints, in lowering the heels properly when riding with stirrups, in retaining the stirrups by the easy flexibility of the ankle joints, and in overcoming the tendency to stand stiffly in the stirrups.

(*b*) The instructor commands: *ROTATE THE RIGHT (LEFT) FOOT.* Each rider traces with the toe, by a slow and uniform movement, a circle in a vertical plane perpendicular to the horse. In tracing the circle the rider's toe first moves toward the horse. The exercise is thus continued until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE.*

(*c*) The instructor commands: *FLEX THE RIGHT (LEFT) ANKLE.* Each rider slowly flexes the ankle by raising the toes upward as far as possible and then, without pause, extending them downward as far as possible. The exercise is thus continued until the instructor commands: *AS YOU WERE.*

63. Jumping obstacles.—*a. General considerations.*—(1) The jumping of obstacles is the best exercise for developing a good seat. If the obstacles are low, so that they can be passed over while the rider is at the same time engaged in some phase of the suppling exercises, progress in the acquisition of a good, close seat is very rapid. Also, if the instructor conducts such exercises daily for even a few minutes the rider soon acquires good form in riding, his position on horseback becoming correct, easy, and graceful. As the rider's seat becomes more secure his hands become lighter and his use of the reins, the weight, and the legs more accurate and effective. Secure in his seat and confident of his ability to control his horse, the rider becomes more aggressive on horseback. He rides boldly up and down hills, over banks and bluffs, and jumps ditches and other small obstacles, whereas the inexperienced rider looking upon such obstacles as insuperable or too dangerous, hesitates, stops, and loses time in seeking a way around.

(2) Instruction and practice in jumping obstacles is divided into two phases. The first phase, called the *gymnastics of jump,* has for its object the cultivation in the rider of suppleness of body, security of seat, ease and grace of position, and freedom from nervous contractions of the muscles due to apprehension. The object of the second phase, called *conducting the horse to the obstacle, over it, and beyond it,* is to teach the rider the cor-

rect use of the aids in the management of the horse. From the beginning the instructor should, in general, devote equal attention to each of these phases. He should be careful to graduate the difficulties involved according to the proficiency and progress of the riders.

b. The gymnastics of the jump.—(1) This is an exercise which should be conducted in the same general manner as are the *suppling exercises*, except that now, as an additional feature, low obstacles are placed across the track. At first the instructor causes one bar to be placed on the track; later he places another bar 10 feet from the first; still later he raises the second bar about 18 inches from the ground. If all goes well, in due time he raises the first bar; then he puts down a third bar, and finally a fourth. He does not do all this the first day. Instead, he graduates the difficulties thus created according to the progress of the riders, always remembering not to make demands too suddenly, and to avoid, if possible, falls and accidents. Eventually, he adds variety to the work by putting the obstacles at unusual places, as, for instance, near a corner, or at irregular intervals along the track. The obstacles having been placed on the track in the manner above indicated, the riders are required to take the track without regard to distance; first, at the walk, later at the slow trot, and eventually at the gallop. To maintain the speed of a slow gait without shortening the reins, lifting the hands, or pulling on the reins as the horse approaches the obstacle is in itself a most valuable exercise. The riders, during their continuous circuit of the track, execute such suppling exercises as are indicated from time to time by the instructor. They hold the reins, which should be long, in the hand next to the wall of the riding ring. Each rider should endeavor to maintain the speed of the gait ordered without exciting his horse to resistance. If a rider is unable to maintain the speed of the gait without crowding unduly upon the rider in front of him he should turn out and, by proceeding straight across the hall, take a vacant place in the column.

(2) The extent to which a rider is able to display indifference to the presence of obstacles is an indication of the extent to which he is able to control his nervous reactions and apprehensions, and to the extent to which he is able to carry on with the suppling exercises without flinching, pausing in his movements, or contracting his muscles as his horse approaches and takes

an obstacle, is a measure of the extent to which he is able to coordinate and regulate his movements. For example, when the riders are executing such an exercise as rotating the arm vertically one may suddenly discontinue the exercise as he approaches a jump; another may grip the fingers of the hand; a third may become rigid in the elbow or the shoulders; while still a fourth may stop rotating the arm altogether and hold the hand high in the air as his horse takes the jump, and then, without realizing it, rotate his arm very swiftly to make up for lost time. All riders may thus display some form of nervous contraction of the muscles and each in a different part of the body for a different reason and to a varying degree. If both the effect and the remedy for it are pointed out to the riders they will become greatly interested, and if the instructor conducts the exercises with regularity and system each rider soon solves and conquers his own personal difficulty.

(3) Prior to executing the above-described exercise the horses should be "warmed up" by brisk work.

(4) Provided the horse is in good hard condition, it is no undue hardship for him to keep up the gallop for a period of 15 or 20 minutes and to continue jumping in succession three or four low obstacles placed at intervals around the track of the riding hall. The horses under these circumstances soon overcome any tendency to rush the jumps, and gradually acquire the habit of jumping while taking the obstacles in his galloping stride. Having great freedom of action, he acquires handiness. By the long periods at the gallop his general condition is improved, and by the mild gymnastics involved in thus leaping low obstacles his so-called jumping muscles are developed and strengthened. The rider, meanwhile, having only to guide or restrain his horse so as to retain his place in the column, can abandon himself completely to the motion of the horse and thus acquire ease and flexibility.

c. Conducting the horse to the obstacle, over it, and beyond it.—(1) Just prior to starting work in this phase of jumping both horses and riders are "warmed up." While calling out individuals to jump the instructor makes it a point to keep the others moving and practicing suppling exercises.

(2) For the purpose of teaching the beginner the correct manner of conducting the horse to the obstacle, over it, and beyond it, the instructor should erect in the center of the riding

hall a long obstacle of moderate height. In the beginning this obstacle should be merely a bar laid on the ground, its height being gradually increased until it has reached toward the end of the course a height of 3 feet.

(3) High jumps are as a rule taken at a gallop of moderate speed and broad jumps at an extended gallop. For broad jumps *it is important that the speed be increased as the obstacle is approached.*

(4) Throughout the instruction in jumping the instructor should impress upon the riders the following points:

(*a*) Preparatory to approaching a jump, the rider should sit deep in the saddle, adjust the reins, and gather the horse. Being well seated at the outset, if the horse bounds suddenly forward, the rider will not lose his balance and have to lurch forward to regain it. Moreover, he will be more at his ease, more secure in the saddle, and more efficient in his use of the aids. The reins being correctly adjusted, there should, ordinarily, be no occasion thereafter to shorten or lengthen them or to let them slide. By means of the forward inclination of the body and the opening of the angles formed by his shoulders, elbows, and wrists, the rider can usually give the horse any additional rein that he may require. The horse being properly gathered, he will be more readily set in motion and the more easily controlled. The fingers should never be clamped on the reins; they should be closed, but without contraction.

(*b*) In approaching the obstacle it is essential that the rider proceed steadily toward a previously selected point of it, that he ride at the gait prescribed, and that he keep his shoulders leading the points of his hips. He should ride easily, using the legs with just sufficient energy to insure the vigorous forward movement of the horse, and keeping the hands low and steady.

(*c*) Should it become necessary in guiding the horse to use either the leading or bearing rein, the action of the rein should be without traction to the rear. This last point is very important. To produce an effect of traction to the rear is restraint; this is likely to cause the horse to move faster and to pull.

(*d*) If the horse needs to be restrained in order to preserve the speed of the gait prescribed the rider should discreetly apply the reins of opposition and the weight in combination. In this case he must avoid "getting behind" his horse. This

condition occurs when the rider allows his weight to be displaced so far to the rear that the thrust of the horse in making the jump pulls rather than pushes the rider's weight over the obstacle. The rider should exert the exact measure of restraint necessary to slow up the horse and no more; to use his strength excessively and roughly merely excites the horse and provokes resistance. As a rule the only resistance the horse makes is to fight the bit and increase the speed, both of which may be avoided if the rider has a firm seat in the saddle and exercises tact in the use of the aids.

(*e*) Should the horse hesitate as he approaches the obstacle, the rider should use the legs with just sufficient force to preserve the proper gait. If the horse stops in front of the obstacle or runs out and avoids it the rider should gather him sharply and then quiet him, but without seeming to reward him. He should ride back to a point about 10 yards from the obstacle and again approach it, exercising great care to prevent the horse from making the same or still another resistance.

(*f*) If upon approaching the obstacle the horse gets out of hand, goes too fast, or bolts, the rider in his use of the aids must be sure to give the horse his head before he actually jumps. Such a horse should be turned back to jumping very low obstacles or bars laid on the ground until he becomes calm and manageable.

(*g*) A horse should give his attention exclusively to the obstacle and to the ground over which he approaches it. His head and neck should be free and his ears pointing forward. No action or movement of the rider should disconcert the horse, cause him to lose confidence, or direct his attention backward. A horse is quick to detect a spirit of hesitancy and indecision upon the part of the rider and is likely to take advantage of this condition by either running out or refusing. The rider, therefore, should cultivate and display a spirit that is quiet, easy, confident, and bold; this greatly calms the horse, steadies his gait, and assures his best performance in jumping.

(*h*) On arriving near the obstacle the rider should slightly increase the pressure of the lower legs, knees, and thighs; relaxing at the waist, he should settle down into the middle of the saddle. He should keep the upper part of the body slightly forward and the hands low and steady.

(*i*) If the rider's body is inclined forward with waist relaxed the upward bound of the horse with the resulting upward move-

ment of the rider's seat causes the body to bend more at the waist and to appear to dip toward the horse's neck. As the horse descends on the far side of the obstacle the rider's seat descends also, with the result that the rider's body is again nearly upright. This should be accomplished without the rider's seat hitting the seat with a bump. The descent of the rider's seat, as the horse alights, is controlled by the rider *slowly decreasing* the angle formed by his thigh with his lower leg, this angle having previously been increased as his body went forward and his seat upward. The gradual decrease of this angle and the continued forward inclination of the upper part of the body avoids the shock of the rider's weight being received in the saddle as the horse alights. Thus, the actions and postures of the rider's upper body during the jump are automatic rather than premeditated and deliberate. As a result the tightness of the seat, the flexibility of the waist, and the freedom and ease with which the shoulders and arms are carried cause the rider unconsciously to adjust himself not only to the normal motion of the horse but also to any sudden and unexpected reactions due to an exceptional effort or accident.

(*j*) After the first stride on the far side of the obstacle the rider's body should again assume the normal position. He should be deep in the saddle, his legs correctly placed, and his hands low and steady. The degree of forward inclination of the rider's body is now dependent on the pace at which he is riding. The shoulders should be square, the chest out, the head erect, and the eyes glancing forward. In a word, the rider should be ready for the next obstacle or the next thing that may happen; he should in no way be at a disadvantage as regards his position or his ability to make effective use of his aids. If the reins are long enough and taut at the outset they will be long enough during the jump to give ample freedom to the horse for using his neck as a balance without in any way hurting his mouth; after the jump, too, they will be still at the proper length for controlling the horse and will at the same time afford him liberty to use his strength in the next effort.

(*k*) The rider should let the reins slide through the fingers whenever necessary to avoid injuring the horse's mouth or interfering with his action in jumping. This is necessary when the rider gets "behind his horse." Also, when a horse makes a bad fault it is advisable to give him his head and let him take care of himself.

(*l*) The horse having jumped the obstacle, the rider should neither hesitate, slow up, nor turn and look back. He should, instead, ride steadily onward at the gait at which he approached the obstacle.

(*m*) It is very important to impress upon riders that if several are jumping at the same obstacle each should jump that section directly in his own front and thereafter continue in his original direction. It is both disconcerting and dangerous for one rider to change direction at the last moment and jump a section selected by another. Nor should one rider jump directly in the trace of another unless at a considerable distance in rear.

d. Common errors to be guarded against in jumping.—The following is a list of the common errors of riders when jumping and the causes thereof:

ERROR	CAUSES
Getting behind the horse on the approach, or at the take-off, or both.	Rider not ready to go with his horse, or rider's weight is too far to the rear.
Falling on the horse's neck on landing, and occasionally when the horse places himself for the take-off.	Rider's legs too loose.
Hitting the horse in the mouth with the bit.	Rider behind his horse, and fails at the take-off to relax hands to permit reins to slide through fingers as needed. Rider's hands not relaxed when horse jumps.
Toes down and heels up	Improperly adjusted stirrups, or improper manner of closing legs on horse, usually the latter.
Looking down over shoulder on either side.	Mental and physical tenseness.
Looking back at jump	Mental and physical tenseness.
Losing stirrup	Rider behind horse, loss of balance forward or to one side, or improper method of supporting the weight of the body or of closing legs on the horse.
Repeated refusals	Failure or inability to use legs properly, or improper presentation of horse to the jump.
Unsteady hands	Insecure seat, mental and physical tenseness, or lack of muscular coordination.
Repeated run-outs	Failure or inability to use the aids properly, or improper presentation of horse to jump.
Floating reins on approach or take-off	Unsteady position of body.

64. Marching under field conditions.—At the end of the second period the instructor will take the recruits on a short practice march of approximately 5 miles length. For this march the recruits will be fully armed and equipped and the saddle packed as for field service. During this march the recruits will be carefully instructed in the following:

a. March discipline.

b. Proper rate of speed at the walk and the trot.

c. The use and value of leading.

d. The correct adjustment of saddle and equipment prior to the start of the march and during regular halt periods.

e. Watering.

SECTION IV

THIRD PERIOD (THIRD AND FOURTH WEEKS)

65. Program of daily instruction.—*a.* During the third period the horses are equipped with bit and bridoon and the men habitually wear spurs.

b. When time is available two lessons per day are advisable, each lesson being of approximately one and one-half hours duration. When time for two daily lessons is not available the work may be covered by one lesson per day of *not less* than two hours duration, exclusive of the time required to care for animals and equipment.

c. The men ride without stirrups during the first 15 minues of each day's instruction, using the snaffle bit alone. The curb reins are knotted and dropped on the horse's neck. This first half hour is devoted entirely to those exercises which tend to improve and confirm the seat, namely, the suppling exercises and the gymnastics of the jump. During the remainder of each day's instruction the men habitually ride with stirrups.

d. While the men are riding with stirrups the instructor gives close attention to the difficulties encountered by them. For example, many men are unable to retain their stirrups; others stand in their stirrups; others ride with their stirrups too long, thus cultivating a "forked seat"; others ride with their stirrups too short, thus lifting themselves out of the saddle, tiring their leg muscles, and riding in the rear part of the saddle seat. The stirrups should be of such length as to cause the lower leg to extend downward and backward and to rest comfortably and snugly against the side of the horse, leaving the knee and ankle flexible and the heel lower than the toe.

e. During this period of instruction the instructor will continue to use the exercises prescribed for the preceding two periods. In addition he will use the following exercises for advancing the training of the men in equitation.

66. The mechanism of the various gaits.—*a.* The instructor will briefly explain and illustrate by use of a horse the mechanism of the following gaits:

(1) The *walk* is marked by four beats. The feet are raised successively and planted in the order in which raised; for example, right fore, left hind, left fore, right hind.

(2) The *trot* is marked by two beats and a period of suspension. The horse springs from one diagonally disposed pair of feet to the other; between the beats all the feet are in the air. The right fore and the left hind are together called the right diagonal pair; the left fore and right hind, the left diagonal pair.

(3) The *gallop* is marked by three beats and a period of suspension. Thus, for example, if the horse is galloping with the right lead, the first beat is marked by the left hind foot, the second by the nearly simultaneous placing of the right hind and the left fore, and the third beat by the placing of the right fore. If the horse be galloping with the left lead, the beats are right hind, left hind and right fore, left fore.

(*a*) A horse is said to gallop with the *right lead* when the right fore is planted in front of the left fore and the right hind in front of the left hind. When the feet are planted in the inverse order the horse is said to gallop with the *left lead*.

(*b*) A horse gallops *true* when he gallops with the right lead in turning to the right and with the left lead in turning to the left. He gallops *false* when he gallops with the left lead in turning to the right, or conversely.

(*c*) A horse is *disunited* when he gallops with the right lead with his fore feet and with the left lead with his hind feet, or conversely.

b. The recruits, when at the gallop, need not concern themselves as to whether their mounts are galloping true or false; they should not, however, permit their horses to gallop disunited.

c. When a horse becomes disunited in his gallop the rider should bring him to the trot and then put him back into the gallop.

d. During riding-hall work the instructor should not insist that all the horses gallop true. Thus, when galloping on the track, if a few horses are seen to gallop false it is of no consequence. The instructor should bear in mind that the false gallop, occasionally used, is a beneficial exercise for the horse, causing him to acquire a handiness and sense of balance in making changes of direction that is most useful in drill, combat exercises, and cross-country riding.

e. The gallop departs are not taken up until the last period (fifth). Prior to teaching the gallop departs, should the instructor desire that the recruit take the gallop with a certain lead, the right, for example, he directs the recruit to ride his horse at the trot from the inside of the riding-hall ring, perpendicularly towards the track. Upon arrival at the track the recruit turns his horse sharply to the right, applies both legs with vigor, and forces the horse into the gallop. Another method of accomplishing the same result is for the recruit to take the trot on a circle to the right hand and then urge his horse into the gallop.

f. Occasionally, when the riders are at the gallop, the instructor will question them as to whether their own and other designated horses have the right or left lead.

67. The speed of the various gaits.—*a.* In the military service it is essential for the rider to maintain certain rates of speed when at the walk, trot, and gallop.

b. The rate of the walk is 4 miles per hour, or 117 yards per minute. At the command 1. *Forward*, 2. *MARCH*, the regulation walk of 4 miles per hour is taken and scrupulously maintained unless otherwise specially directed.

c. The rate of the trot is 8 miles per hour, or 235 yards per minute. At the command 1. *Trot*, 2. *MARCH*, the regulation trot of 8 miles per hour is taken and scrupulously maintained unless otherwise specially directed. For the purpose of individual instruction in equitation the rate of trot may, at command, be reduced to 6 miles per hour. The command is: 1. *Slow trot*, 2. *MARCH*. When at the *slow trot* the rider should sit down in the saddle; when at the *Trot*, he should rise to the trot.

d. The *maneuvering gallop* is at the rate of 12 miles per hour, or 352 yards per minute. It is called the regulation gallop. At the command 1. *Gallop*, 2. *MARCH*, the maneuvering gallop is taken and held unless otherwise specially directed.

e. The *extended gallop* is at the rate of 16 miles per hour, or 469 yards per minute. It is taken at the command 1. *Extended gallop*, 2. *MARCH*.

f. The *canter* is at the rate of 8 miles per hour. It is used on occasion in connection with the instruction of recruits in riding and in the training of horses. It is taken at the command 1. *Canter*, 2. *MARCH*.

68. Gaiting.—*a.* Throughout instruction in equitation the instructor will avail himself of every favorable opportunity to impress upon the men the importance of knowing and maintaining the proper rates of speed at the various gaits. In this connection the example set by the instructor, especially when leading the men across country, will have a strong influence in the right direction. Of all the gaits it is of special importance that the men know the 8-mile-per-hour trot.

b. The instructor will have a gaiting course of 1 mile length marked off and frequently practice the men individually over this course at the regulation walk, trot, and gallop. Occasionally selected individuals may be required to lead the squads to which they belong through the gaiting course at a prescribed gait, the instructor and his assistants keeping time and noting errors.

69. To leave ranks.—*a.* The instructor causes the recruits to form line and then calls upon them individually to ride their horses out of ranks. As each man's name is called he rides his horse out of ranks to a point or locality designated by the instructor.

b. In case a rider's horse resists leaving ranks the rider takes the reins in both hands, gathers his horse, inclines his weight slightly forward, applies the right leading rein and the right leg so as to cause the horse to move forward and to the right oblique. When the horse has taken two or three steps forward and to the right oblique the rider changes the aids to the left leading rein and left leg so as to cause the horse to move to the left front. Continuing the above-described process, the rider causes the horse to move on a zigzag course towards the designated point or locality.

c. In riding a difficult horse out of ranks it is essential that the rider not permit the reins to become slack when inclining his body forward. Also, when using the leading rein on one side the rider must not permit the opposite rein to become slack. The reins are kept taut and the horse up on the bit.

70. Practicing, individually, the charge at full speed.—*a.* In the case of recruits assigned to the Cavalry the instructor prepares the troopers to participate in the charge in line. This is accomplished by practicing the troopers in galloping, individually and at full speed, over a distance of 60 to 75 yards.

b. In charging, the trooper bends his body forward and pushes his feet home in the stirrups. He gives his horse his head, if necessary, a touch of the spur, and holds him in the direction indicated.

c. Having charged the distance prescribed by the instructor, the trooper reduces the speed progressively that is, he brings his horse to the regulation gallop, then to the trot, then to the walk. To reduce the speed abruptly is unnecessary and inadvisable during instruction. It may be practiced later on when the trooper is sufficiently proficient in the use of the aids to stop suddenly without injuring the mouth or spoiling the temper of his horse.

d. In order not to fatigue the horses by repeated charges, the individual charge should be practiced only a few times during any one instruction period. It should always be executed on a track or piece of ground especially adapted to this work; that is, open, level ground where the footing is neither too hard nor too soft.

71. Object of riding-hall exercises.—The object of the purely riding-hall exercises prescribed in this period and succeeding periods is to afford the rider frequent opportunity to apply the principles previously stated. It is evident, therefore, that these riding-hall exercises are merely the means to an end. The end to be obtained is that the rider shall be able to control his horse out of doors, alone or in ranks, and under both favorable and unfavorable conditions.

72. To march on a circle.—The riders being on the track, at the command *ON A CIRCLE*, the designated leader, followed by the other riders, rides on a circle between the two tracks. At the command *TAKE THE TRACK* the leader takes the track to the hand toward which he is marching and is followed by the other riders.

73. Work by threes.—*a.* The riders being on the track with 4 feet distance from head to croup, as the head of the column passes across an end of the riding hall the instructor commands: 1. *By threes by the right (or left) flank*, 2. *MARCH.* At the command *March* the first three riders at the head of column execute by the *right flank* and proceed straight down the length of the hall. They are followed by each successive three in the column, who turn to the flank on the same ground. In each three the center rider is the guide. The center rider of the leading three is also the guide of the squad, the guides in rear

regulating upon him. Upon arrival at the opposite end of the hall the leading three take the track to the hand to which they were marching before the movement began.

b. The movement is continuous until the instructor commands: *TAKE THE TRACK.*

c. When the riders are disposed by threes in the riding hall the instructor should cause them to halt, to move forward, to change gaits, to turn to the right flank, and to execute the right or left about. Each rider, in addition to executing all movements correctly, should be required to preserve his place, checkerboard fashion, with reference to his comrades. Thus the conditions of the exercise demand of the trooper increased alertness combined with an effective use of the aids.

74. Cross-country riding.—The instruction in cross-country riding prescribed in section 2 for the first and second periods is continued during the third period. However, the trot and gallop will be used more frequently during the third period and the route selected may be over ground affording steeper slopes. Natural obstacles such as heavy brush, woods, small ditches, and streams may be crossed, but fences, hurdles, and all other artificial obstacles are avoided.

75. Marching under field conditions.—At the end of the third period the instructor takes the recruits on a practice march similar to that prescribed for the second period, except that the distance is increased to approximately 15 miles.

SECTION V

FOURTH PERIOD (FIFTH AND SIXTH WEEKS)

76. Program of daily instruction.—*a.* During the fourth period the horses are equipped with bit and bridoon and the men habitually wear spurs.

b. When time is available two lessons per day are advisable, each lesson being of approximately one and one-half hours duration. When time for two daily lessons is not available the work may be covered by one lesson per day of *not less* than two hours duration, exclusive of the time required to care for animals and equipment.

c. The men ride without stirrups during the first 15 minutes of each day's instruction, using the snaffle bit alone, the curb bit hanging loose. The first half hour is devoted entirely to

those exercises which tend to improve and confirm the seat, namely, the suppling exercises and the gymnastics of the jump. During the remainder of each day's instruction the men habitually ride with stirrups.

d. The primary objective of the instruction during the fourth period is to constantly improve the seat of the rider and his use of the aids. To accomplish this task the instructor utilizes all the exercises of preceding periods in addition to the following exercises.

77. Broken lines.—*a.* The broken-line exercise consists of departures from and returns to the long side of the hall by successive obliques. The riders being on the track without regard to distance, at the walk, trot, or gallop, the command is: *BROKEN LINES, ONCE (TWICE, OR THREE TIMES) IN THE LENGTH OF THE RIDING HALL.* As each trooper enters the long side he leaves the track by an oblique and, having marched the proper distance, returns to the track by another oblique. This is repeated the number of times specified; at the other end of the long side he retakes the track.

b. This exercise in the riding hall has for its object to teach the rider how to make rapid changes of direction when out of doors.

78. Serpentines.—*a.* The serpentine consists of successive abouts executed by the rider directing his horse on a sinuous course. The command is: *SERPENTINE.* Being on the track without regard to distance, at the walk or slow trot, as each rider reaches the middle of the short side designated by the instructor he leaves the track and follows by a continuous succession of abouts, a serpentine course to the far end of the riding hall. Upon reaching the opposite end of the riding hall each rider takes the track to the same hand as that on which he marched before the movement began.

b. Riders should execute broken lines and serpentines as individuals; they should not follow closely in the trace of the man in front. The riders being thus disposed *without regard to distance,* each turn is made by the horse in exact obedience to the aids as applied by the rider.

79. Circling individually.—*a.* The riders being on the track without regard to distance, at the walk, slow trot, or canter, at the command *Individual circle to the right (or left),* each rider gathers his horse. At the command *March,* each rider describes a complete circle tangent to the track and retakes the

track at the point where he left it. The radius of the circle should be 2 yards at the walk, 4 yards at the slow trot, and 6 yards at the canter.

b. Each rider, without reference to any other rider, rides his horse with great exactness on the circle. He should endeavor to use the aids correctly in maintaining the speed and in controlling the direction of his horse.

80. The half turn.—*a.* The half turn consists of an about followed by an oblique.

b. Being on the track to the right (or left) hand, at the walk, slow trot, or canter, at the command *Half turn* each rider gathers his horse. At the command *March* each rider executes a right about and then by the right oblique regains the track. The about should be made on the arc of a circle whose radius is 2 yards at the walk, 4 yards at the slow trot, and 6 yards at the canter. At the moment the horse starts the right about the rider increases the action of the left leg and left bearing rein, thus causing the horse to turn slightly on the haunches.

c. This movement being a turn slightly on the haunches, should be much practiced, first at the walk and slow trot and later at the canter. This exercise is of especial value when executed at a collected canter because it teaches the rider how to turn quickly to the right (or left) about at the gallop out of doors.

81. The figure of 8.—*a.* The riders being on the track without regard to distance, at the walk, trot, or gallop, at the command *Individual figures of 8* each rider gathers his horse. At the command *March* each rider directs his horse on such a course as to describe a figure of 8, the figure being perpendicular to the track and its lower loop tangent to the track.

b. In the beginning the figure of 8 described by each rider should be of large dimensions. Later, as the riders become more skillful in the use of the aids, the dimensions of the figure are gradually reduced until finally all arcs are described on a radius of 2 yards at the walk, 4 yards at the trot, and 6 yards at the gallop.

82. Dimensions of artificial obstacles.—*a.* Obstacles for jumping are of two classes:

(1) *Broad jumps* are those which require a leap of breadth only, such as ditches, water jumps, etc.

(2) *High jumps* are those which require a leap in height, such as hedges, fences, walls, etc.

b. The dimensions of obstacles are increased in proportion to the progress of the riders; very moderate at first, they should be limited eventually to 8 feet for broad jumps and 3 feet for high jumps. Artificial obstacles should have sufficient width of front to prevent the horses from avoiding them easily.

83. Cross-country riding.—*a.* The instruction in cross-country riding is continued in the same spirit throughout the remainder of the course. New routes across country should be sought of a nature to add to the rider's difficulties, thus presenting to him tests gradually increasing in interest and severity. Artificial obstacles from 3 to 5 feet in width or from 1½ to 2½ feet in height should be provided so as to be encountered conveniently enroute.

b. Horses should not be tempted to sudden refusals, thereby bringing about unnecessary falls and accidents among the riders. Accordingly, all artificial obstacles should be quite long—the longer the better. Moreover, to horses and men alike, a long obstacle seems low, a short obstacle high.

c. Obstacles encountered should be approached calmly; that is, there should be entire freedom from undue spurts of speed, rushing, or pulling. The riding is not good if the horses are excited and if the riders have to resort to harsh and undue feats of strength in order to hold them down to the gait prescribed. Such exhibitions show poor management upon the part of the instructor, indicating that he has neglected to practice the men sufficiently at the slower gaits or has increased too quickly the height of the obstacles.

d. A new feature—that of moving across country by bounds from cover to cover—is introduced at this time. Each squad is organized as a patrol and directed to proceed at a certain rate over a specified route across country. While so moving the squads are directed to take advantage of all available cover from assumed hostile aerial and ground observation.

84. Marching and field conditions.—Toward the end of the fourth period the recruits are taken on a practice march similar to that prescribed for the second period, except that the distance marched will be approximately 20 miles. This march and all subsequent marches should be conducted under an assumed war situation, requiring the recruits to be organized as a large

patrol, as the support of an advance guard, a rear guard, flank guard, etc.

SECTION VI

FIFTH PERIOD (SEVENTH AND EIGHTH WEEKS)

85. Program of daily instruction.—*a.* During this period the men and horses are equipped the same as for the preceding instruction period.

b. When time is available, two lessons per day are advisable, each lesson being of approximately one and one-half hours duration. When time for two daily lessons is not available, the work may be covered by one lesson per day of *not less* than two hours duration, exclusive of the time required to care for animals and equipment.

c. During this period the instructor will utilize the exercises employed in the four preceding periods and, in addition, will use the following exercises:

86. To passage to the right or left when at the halt.—*a.* The purpose of this exercise is to teach the recruit how to close his horse to the right or left when in ranks at the halt.

b. The instructor causes the recruits to form line, with approximately 2 yards interval between horses. He then commands: 1. *Passage to right* (*left*), 2. *MARCH.* At the preparatory command each man gathers his horse. At the command of execution each man causes his horse to move to the right (left) without gaining distance to the front. To effect this movement the soldier employs the left (right) bearing rein and the left (right) leg. Any tendency of the horse to move forward is checked by increasing the tension on the reins. The rider demands only a few steps by the horse in the desired direction before relaxing the aids and stroking the horse on the neck. The exercise is repeated until the instructor commands *HALT.*

c. The instructor gives only so much practice in this exercise as is necessary to enable the recruits to align their horses when in ranks at the halt.

87. The gallop departs.—*a.* The recruit should, by the end of his course in equitation, know how to make his horse take the gallop *from the trot* with either lead desired.

b. The horse being at a slow trot on a circle or *at the end* of a turn, to cause the horse to take the gallop with the right

lead the rider employs the right bearing rein just in front of the withers and the left rein of opposition. At the same time the rider inclines his weight slightly to the left rear, applies the left leg vigorously at the rear edge of the girth, the right leg vigorously on the girth, and pushes the horse into the gallop. At the moment the horse springs into the gallop the rider inclines his weight forward in order to assist the horse.

c. The effect of the right bearing rein is to weight the horse's left foreleg and induce him to extend or advance the right foreleg. When applied lightly this rein also causes the horse to bend his head at the poll slightly to the right, thus enabling him to see the ground on which he is to move.

d. The effect of the left rein of opposition is to support the action of the right bearing rein, restrain the left foreleg, and prevent the horse's neck from bending to the right.

e. The effect of shifting the rider's weight to the left rear is to weight and thereby restrain the forward movement of the left hind leg and at the same time free the right foreleg for movement to the front.

f. The effect of the rider's left leg, due to its position, is more powerful than the effect of his right leg, causing the haunches of the horse to be moved slightly to the right. The action of the rider's right leg prevents the horse from shifting his haunches too far to the right. The vigorous action of both of the rider's legs provides the necessary impulse to cause the horse to take the gallop.

g. The gallop with the left lead is secured in a similar manner by converse application of the aids.

h. The change of lead while *at the gallop* is a very difficult exercise and is, furthermore, of no practical utility to the mounted soldier in ranks. For the two reasons just stated, this exercise will *not* be practiced.

88. The about on the haunches.—*a.* The about on the haunches *at the halt* is of no utility and should not be practiced. In executing this movement it should be borne in mind that the faster the horse is moving the more be engages his haunches under him in order to slow up and make the turn.

b. By utilizing the about, circling individually, the half turn, and the figure of eight exercises at the walk, the trot, and the canter the rider is progressively prepared for executing the about on the haunches. In executing the above-mentioned pre-

paratory exercises the rider is given much practice in making the turns involved, now with the horse held straight on the curve, now with his haunches held slightly to the inside of the curve. In addition to these preparatory exercises the rider is practiced in coming to a halt from the walk, the trot, and the canter.

c. The rider is next practiced in combining the halt and turn into one exercise—the about on the haunches. This exercise is practiced first at the walk, next at the trot, and finally at the gallop. In executing this exercise the rider moves on a straight course, at the gait indicated, until he arrives at a point previously designated by the instructor. Here he executes a right (or left) about on an arc the radius of which is as short as he can make it. The rider uses his legs well back and low in order to secure his seat solidly in the saddle. He applies the reins of opposition and the weight in combination in order to slow up his horse and then uses the left bearing rein, the weight, and the left leg in order to whirl his horse to the right-about on the haunches. Having completed the about, the rider returns to the starting point at the indicated gait. The left-about on the haunches is executed in a similar manner, employing the right bearing rein, the weight, and the right leg in making the turn. In practicing this exercise the rider turns to the right-about if his horse is leading right and to the left-about if his horse is leading left.

d. In executing the about on the haunches the instructor emphasizes the importance of calmness and obedience on the part of the horse. Exactness of step or posture are not so important as swiftness and brilliancy of action. When properly executed this movement finds ready and useful application at drill and in individual mounted combat.

89. Swimming horses.—*a.* The men who can not swim are first taught how to swim. When this has been accomplished the men are given individual instruction and practice in swimming their horses. In case time is not available for teaching those men who can not swim how to swim, only those men who can swim are given instruction and practice in swimming with their horses.

b. Prior to swimming his horse the soldier removes all the equipment from his mount except the halter, the bridle headstall, the snaffle bit, and the snaffle reins. He then ties a knot

in the reins so that when the knot rests in front of the withers the reins will not sag down and become entangled in the horse's front feet. As a further precaution the throatlatch is unbuckled, brought around underneath the reins and again loosely secured.

c. The rider now mounts his horse and, preceded by an experienced soldier, if available, rides his horse into the stream. When the horse gets into deep water the rider slips off his back on the *downstream* side and holds on to the horse by grasping his neck just in front of the withers with the nearest hand. The rider lies flat in the water near the surface and guides his horse by splashing water against his head or by pulling *very gently* on the bridle rein with the hand farthest away from the horse. In so using the rein the rider grasps it near the bit and uses it entirely as a leading rein, being careful not to exert any rearward pressure. Any backward pull on the rein is liable to cause the horse to throw up his head and turn over backward. The rider releases the rein the moment it has served its purpose.

d. If the current is strong the rider heads his horse at an angle of about 45° against it to avoid being carried too far downstream.

e. In case of difficulty the soldier releases his hold on the horse's neck and grasps hold of the tail. Under no circumstances must the soldier grab his horse about the head or attempt to sustain himself by the reins.

90. Marching under field conditions.—Toward the end of this period the recruits are taken on a practice march smilar to that prescribed for the fourth period, except that the distance covered should be approximately 25 miles.

91. Supplementary references.—T. R. 50—45, Instruction, Mounted, Without Arms.

CHAPTER 2

TRAINING REMOUNTS

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SECTION I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

92. Object.—*a.* The object is to develop, in a minimum time, the condition and training of the remounts to the degree necessary to fit them for field service in the ranks of the troop.

b. A good troop horse is one that is sound and of good conformation, in good condition for hard work, tranquil, pleasant to ride and easy to manage, a moderately good jumper, unafraid of water and a good swimmer, and accustomed to the use of arms and the sound of firing.

93. The physical fitness of remounts.—At the beginning of their training remounts are not in good physical condition. They are not accustomed to hard work and their muscles, tendons, joints, and vital organs (heart and lungs) are weak. Accordingly, the remounts' bodies are susceptible to painful injuries if the work demanded of them is beyond their reasonable physical powers. Therefore, the daily work imposed upon remounts should tend to be long in point of time but very mild in character. It is out of doors, in the open air and sunshine, that the young horse is conditioned. Long periods at the walk, very short periods at the trot, and shorter and less frequent periods at the gallop expand the lungs, strengthen the heart, and build up the muscles of the young horse.

94. Qualities of an officer in charge of remounts.—It is essential that the officer in charge of the training of remounts be a skilled and experienced horseman.

95. Cautions to officers in charge of training remounts.—*a.* Progress should be suited to the age, quality, and condition of the remounts. The officer in charge of training should be constantly on the alert to make sure that the training in each step of the course is thorough before proceeding to a more advanced step.

b. The training of the remounts should be conducted without hurry. Intensity and nervousness upon the part of the officer in charge is promptly transmitted through the riders to the remounts and reacts most unfavorably upon their dispositions.

c. There should be frequent rests. As training progresses the distinction between standing and moving *at ease* or *route order* and standing or moving when at *attention* should be sharply drawn. Horses should be kept moving during rests if they are very hot or the weather is unfavorable. During rests the men should habitually be required to look their horses over carefully, examine their feet, and readjust the saddles.

d. Throughout the course of training for remounts the officer in charge should bear in mind the following precepts:

(1) *Be systematic.*—Prepare a program for each day's work. Make sure that the exercises included in the program are in proper relation to the work of previous days.

(2) *Be patient.*—Do not demand too much. Ask a little, but ask it often.

(3) *Be tactful.*—Take advantage of the most favorable conditions for teaching the horses a new lesson. Undertake nothing new when the horse is "high," excited, or frightened.

(4) *Be moderate.*—Begin with the simplest movements and when these are understood proceed to those movements or exercises which are slightly more difficult.

(5) *Be observant.*—The resistance of the horse is frequently due to ill-fitting bits or saddlery, to a poor rider, to lack of condition, or approaching unsoundness.

(6) *Be exacting.*—Do not be content with the perfunctory execution of riding-hall exercises. Make certain that the riders understand the purpose of each exercise and then require them to be precise in their use of the aids on the remounts. Before taking the first step of an exercise require that the horse be placed in a position to facilitate the easy and natural execution of the exercise.

(7) *Be logical.*—Do not confuse the means by which an end is obtained with the end itself. Thus, do not use riding-hall ex-

ercises as a proof of training nor drill movements as a means of training.

(8) *Be liberal.*—Permit the riders to ride part of the time at will. In general, work conducted on the track should be without fixed distances between riders.

(9) *Be tenacious.*—Never provoke a struggle that can properly be avoided. If, however, a serious resistance is encountered the rider must persist until resistance is overcome.

(10) *Be practical.*—Throughout the course of training keep in mind the fundamental requirements of ordinary marches, maneuvers, and field service. Exclude from the training program any exercises as do not contribute directly toward the preparation of the remounts for such duty.

96. The organization of remounts into suitable groups.—Not less than 8 nor more than 32 remounts should be trained by one instructor at one time. The remounts are organized into squads and are thus accustomed to simple military formations and evolutions while being trained.

97. The selection of riders.—*a.* For the training of remounts those men should be selected who have a liking and an aptitude for the management of animals and who, in addition, have received a thorough course of instruction in riding.

b. In case inexperienced riders are used in the training of remounts the officer in charge will have to carry on the instruction of the men in conjunction with the training of the horses. Under such conditions the remounts will not be so well trained at the end of the course as would be the case were they ridden by experienced riders. Nevertheless, if the officer in charge makes a judicious combination of the subject matter of this chapter and that of chapter 1, Equitation, the training of both the men and the horses may be brought to a very satisfactory conclusion.

c. In the assignment of riders to horses some adjustment will be necessary during the first few days in order to place certain types of horses in the charge of men who appear best able to manage them. As soon as practicable, however, all assignments should be made permanent.

98. Care of the horses.—*a.* The officer in charge of the training of remounts should pay scrupulous attention to the cleanliness of the stables, stalls, and mangers, and to the general sanitation of the immediate surroundings. Remounts are very sus-

ceptible to colds, fevers, and other ailments which if not guarded against will seriously interrupt if not wholly interfere with the training. He should, in addition, by daily inspections, keep himself thoroughly informed as to the kind and supply of forage, its preparation, the amount fed, and the frequency of feeding. (See ch. 3, Use and Care of Animals.)

b. During work the officer in charge must be watchful of the speed and duration of the various gaits, lest an overtaxing of the strength of young horses results in a loss of condition. In the early lessons, especially when out of doors, the officer in charge should designate as group leaders those men who are riding the oldest and gentlest remounts. No great attempt should be made to conform to the regulation speed at the walk, the trot, or the gallop until all the remounts have attained a fair degree of condition. Thereafter the regulation speed of the various gaits should be maintained.

c. As rapidly as possible the remounts should be shod, beginning with the quietest ones first. The officer in charge should exercise close supervision of the shoeing to make sure it is properly done and that this work is accomplished in a quiet, gentle manner.

99. Attention to the fitting of bits and saddles.—*a.* There is nothing more injurious to the temper of a horse or that more interferes with the achievement of satisfactory results in his training than ill-fitting and uncomfortable bitting and saddlery. Accordingly, from the beginning to the end of the course of training the proper fitting of bits and saddles should receive systematic attention. (See ch. 3, Use and Care of Animals.)

b. In fitting the snaffle bit in the remount's mouth it is very important to prevent the horse's tongue from getting over the bit. Therefore the cheek pieces of the bridle should be carefully adjusted in length so that the snaffle bit lightly wrinkles the corners of the horse's mouth.

100. Duration of a course of training for remounts.—*a.* The training given remounts may be classified under three headings, viz, conditioning or physical upbuilding, training proper or "schooling," and the preservation of the tranquility or good disposition of the horse. The time required to accomplish the training of remounts under each of the above headings is subject to wide variations, due to such factors as the season of the year; the age, quality, and condition of the remounts; the facilities available; such as riding halls, terrain for cross-country

riding, jumping pens, etc., the quality of the riders; and the amount of time available each day for the work. Except in an emergency three or four months can be profitably employed in the training of an average lot of remounts before assigning them to troop duty. For horses under 5 years of age a longer training period is desirable.

b. The *conditioning* of the remount *requires more time than does the other training.* No matter how great the rider's skill, the physical development of the horse is mainly subject to the laws of nature. *Increased work* is not a substitute for *time* in building up the horse physically.

c. Due to a sudden war emergency, it may be necessary to prepare remounts for field service in a shorter period of time than three or four months. The training outlined in this chapter is based upon the existence of such an emergency, and it must be clearly understood that the condition of the remounts at the conclusion of such brief training will not attain the standard desirable for field service. Horses so trained must necessarily receive a large share of their conditioning after assignment to troop units. In particular the weight-carrying muscles of such horses must be carefully strengthened and hardened. This may be accomplished by requiring a large amount of leading in the early stages of campaign, and a very gradual increase, from day to day, in the time the rider's weight is allowed to be on the horse's back. Unless the necessity for gradual building up the strength of the horse's back is clearly understood and suitable care exercised a large per cent of the new horses will be quickly incapacitated for further service.

d. In conducting the training of remounts under the conditions specified in the preceding subparagraph the officer in charge may find it advisable and even necessary to segregate the animals of poorer quality and substance and have their training proceed with greater deliberation.

101. Division of training into periods.—The course of training herein prescribed covers two weeks in time, divided into two periods of a week each. A supplementary period of two weeks is also provided for use when more time is available.

102. Weekly inspection of the horses.—In addition to his attention to the appearance of the horses while at work and at "stables" the officer in charge of the training of remounts should inspect each horse in a formal manner once a week. He should have each rider lead out his mount, the latter equipped

with the snaffle bridle and without saddle. He should then question the rider and discuss with him the condition of the horse. The two together should minutely inspect the teeth, the eyes, nostrils, feet, legs, coats, and should note the state of health of the horse as exhibited by his appearance generally. They should glance at blemishes and closely observe for any indication of approaching diseases or lameness.

103. Periodic inspection by the commanding officer.—At the end of the second period the commanding officer should inspect the remounts and should test the results accomplished as to their conditioning and training. In his tests he should confine himself strictly to the subject matter of the approved program of instruction.

SECTION II

FIRST PERIOD (FIRST WEEK)

104. Conditioning.—*a.* Too much time should not be spent in work in the riding hall because such work dulls the sensibilities of the remounts and they lose that alertness of manner and vigor in action which it is the aim of conditioning to cultivate. It is desirable that the steady upbuilding of their strength by exercise out of doors keep pace with or a little ahead of the exercises and movements required in the riding hall. Generally not more than 45 minutes should be given to riding-hall work at one time.

b. Condition of remounts is based upon a great amount of walking in proportion to the time spent at the trot or gallop. During the first three days' work the walk only should be used while riding the remounts. Thereafter short periods at the trot and gallop may be interposed with long periods at the walk.

c. It is highly important that the rate of the walk be regulated on the speed of the slowest horses, so as to avoid causing the slower horses to fret and fidget. In returning to the stables it is desirable to follow a different route from that used in going away from the stables. The remounts should be brought back to the stables dry and cool.

105. Objective of each day's work.—In general terms, the object of each day's training should be as follows:

First day.—To saddle each remount; to teach each remount to be led about by the rider on foot.

Second day.—To mount each remount; to teach each remount to move forward at the walk with the rider on his back.

Third day.—To improve and confirm the training given on the first two days; to teach the remounts to move forward freely at the walk and to halt and again move forward; to teach the remounts to turn to the right and left.

Fourth day.—To improve and confirm the training given during the first three days; to teach the remounts to take the trot from the walk and to return to the walk.

Fifth day.—To improve and confirm the training given during the first four days; to teach the remounts to turn about to the right and to the left.

Sixth day.—To improve and confirm the training given during the preceding five days; to teach the remounts to take the gallop from the trot and to return to the trot; to teach the remounts to individually leave the group of horses and rejoin; to accustom the remounts to carrying the saber and having it drawn and returned and handled by the rider when mounted.

106. Program of daily training.—*a.* When local conditions permit, the gentling and conditioning of the remounts should be started while they are still in quarantine and before starting on their training as herein prescribed. During quarantine all healthy remounts should be exercised by herding them around an oval-shaped track inside one of the corrals. An hour of this exercise in the morning and another in the afternoon will materially improve the condition of the remounts and do much toward making them gentle. In addition each horse should be thoroughly groomed once each day, preferably at a feeding time.

b. After release from quarantine the remounts should receive two training lessons per day, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, each lesson of about two hours' duration.

c. After each lesson the remounts are thoroughly groomed. During grooming the feet are picked up and the bottom of the feet tapped with the currycomb or a stone in order to prepare the remounts for their first shoeing ordeal.

d. The first 30 minutes of each lesson should generally be used for exercising the remounts by herding them around on the exercise track. The next 45 minutes of each lesson should generally be conducted in a riding hall. Any time remaining should be used in riding the remounts across country or on the

roads. The term *riding hall* refers to any inclosed or uninclosed rectangle out of doors similar in arrangement to a riding hall.

e. In riding across country or on the roads the remounts are frequently practiced in close and extended order drill formations.

f. The men ride without spurs and carry a riding whip or switch. The remounts are equipped with snaffle bridles.

g. The exercises which follow, in the order in which listed, constitute the subject matter from which the officer in charge should make up his program of daily training.

107. To exercise the remounts.—*a.* The remounts are exercised by herding them around an oval-shaped track which has been fenced on both sides. To construct this track any available corral or riding pen of suitable size may be used for the outer fence. Only an inner fence about 4 feet high need then be built. The width of the track should be about 10 feet. A gate should be provided in both fences. A mounted soldier, or two dismounted soldiers, equipped with driving whips, are employed to keep the remounts on the move while being exercised.

b. To accustom the remounts to the sight of pistol targets and saber heads several of each are placed along the track fence where they can be plainly seen by the horses.

c. To accustom the remounts to the sound of firing one soldier is detailed to fire the service pistol in the immediate vicinity of the exercise pen while the remounts are being exercised. The firing point is gradually moved nearer to the track on each succeeding day of the training.

d. As soon as the remounts can be saddled they are required to carry the saddle during all exercise work on the herding track. Each day added equipment is placed on the saddle until by the end of the first week's training all the remounts are carrying full-pack field equipment. Articles of equipment are added in the following order: Saddlebags, saber scabbard, rifle boot, shelter half roll, slicker, grain bag, and canteen.

e. Beginning with the first day's work on the exercise track, two or three logs (about 1 foot in diameter) are placed on the ground across the track and at convenient intervals apart. After the remounts have passed over these logs a dozen times, first at the walk and later at the trot, the logs are removed. Thereafter, on each succeeding day, the height of the logs is gradually increased until by the end of the first week the remounts have been practiced in jumping over obstacles 2 feet high.

108. To put on the saddle.—For the first lesson in saddling and thereafter, until the remount submits quietly to saddling, the following procedure is observed:

a. Starting with the first day, all remounts that can be quietly handled are saddled.

b. Before being saddled the remounts are thoroughly exercised by herding on the exercise track.

c. In saddling, the riders work in pairs and the remount to be saddled is led off the track to the inside of the pen. Here the snaffle bridle is put on, care being taken to have the length of the cheek pieces such that the snaffle bit *just wrinkles* the corners of the horse's mouth.

d. The assistant stands squarely in front of the remount, grasping the bridle reins about 6 inches from the bit with the right hand. With his free hand the assistant strokes the remount's head and neck and uses assuring tones of voice to keep him calm. The rider now approaches the remount from the left front, with the saddle blanket folded and resting on his right arm; he runs his left hand along the horse's crest and withers, strokes him on the shoulder and back, and places the blanket quietly in place. The rider next places the saddle on the horse's back in the same manner as described for the blanket. If necessary, the assistant holds the blanket in place until the saddle is placed on it. The girth is adjusted comfortably; it is not drawn tight. If the remount is quite nervous the stirrups are removed from the saddle before attempting to saddle him.

e. The remount is then led about for a few minutes and the saddle pressed and handled. As soon as the horse is quiet the bridle is removed and the remount turned loose on the exercise track. The pair of riders now saddle another remount, following the same procedure as outlined above.

109. To stand to horse, lead out, and line up (in the riding hall).—*a.* The remounts having become accustomed to the weight of the saddle, the pressure of the girth, and the movement of the swinging stirrups, they are now ready for further training in being handled by the rider on foot. For this purpose each rider takes the position of *Stand to horse* and leads his remount up and down at the walk. The riders are next required, while leading their remounts, to *Line up* (*in the riding hall*), each rider at *Stand to horse* with his horse properly disposed. The first lesson should cease at this point and the men directed to *fall out* and lead their remounts to the stable.

b. The second lesson of the first day should be a repetition of the first lesson, except that saddlebags and saber scabbard are attached to the saddle after the remount has been saddled. The second lesson of the first day should terminate in the same manner as the first lesson, i. e., with the riders leading the remounts about dismounted.

c. In order to avoid accidents due to kicking, the instructor should caution the riders to be very careful while leading the remounts about.

110. To mount and dismount.—*a.* On the second day the remounts are ready to be mounted. They are first exercised on the herding track, then saddled, and again returned to the herding track for more exercise, carrying the saddle, saddlebags, saber scabbard, and rifle boot. After a thorough workout on the herding track the officer in charge designates three or four remounts at a time to be brought off the track to the inside of the pen. In designating which remounts should be brought out for mounting the officer in charge selects the quietest remounts first.

b. The remounts selected for mounting are first bridled with snaffle-bit bridles, which are carefully adjusted and examined prior to proceeding with the mounting lessons. The saddles are also stripped of all equipment. Each man should now be able to mount his horse without great difficulty, provided patience and gentleness are exercised.

c. The officer in charge designates four or five of the most experienced men on his training detail to assist the riders in mounting their remounts for the first time. An assistant stands in front of the remount, grasping the bridle reins with the right hand about 6 inches from the bit. By his firm, gentle manner and soothing tones of voice the assistant attracts the attention of the remount and keeps him quiet. The rider, meantime, approaches the horse from the left front, runs his left hand along the horse's crest and withers, and with his right hand strokes the horse's shoulders, back, and haunches. He places his left hand on the horse's neck just in front of the withers, extends his right arm across the middle of the saddle, and presses down upon the saddle. He next lowers and raises the near stirrup and twists the strap face outward. He then takes the reins in the left hand and places this hand on the horse's neck just in front of the withers, puts the left foot in the stirrup

without touching the horse's side with his toe, places his right hand upon the cantle of the saddle, and raises slightly on the stirrup by an effort of the right leg, the left knee bent and pressed against the saddle. If the remount does not move the rider mounts without hurry, but without hesitation, and sits down lightly in the saddle.

d. If the horse moves when the rider starts to mount the assistant takes hold of the cheek pieces of the bridle and, by caressing the horse, induces him to stand still. The assistant must not pull on the reins; to do so may cause the horse to rear and fall over backward. The rider should not mount the horse until he stands still again; he should, instead, remove the foot from the stirrup and his right hand from the cantle and, staying near the horse's left shoulder, follow his movements forward, backward, or sideward until he eventually stands still. The rider then renews his efforts to mount.

e. After sitting down lightly in the saddle the rider puts his right foot in the stirrup, assisted habitually by the right hand. He then holds the reins lightly in the left hand and strokes the horse on the crest and shoulders with the object of causing him to relax and stand still.

f. As soon as the horse is relaxed and reasonably calm the assistant takes the position of *Stand to horse*, but with his right hand holding the cheek piece, and causes the horse to move forward and change direction to the left. The horse is more easily moved forward if he is swung to the left at the same time. After thus moving a few steps the horse should be halted and petted; then the forward movement and turn to the left is repeated. The assistant then leads the horse for a considerable distance in a straight line before halting and petting him. When the horse leads freely and is relaxed and quiet the rider dismounts.

g. In dismounting it is very important that the horse be not frightened. Accordingly, assisted by the dismounted rider, the rider dismounts quietly and carefully, endeavoring always to cause the horse to stand perfectly still.

h. If a horse is very difficulty to mount the rider should not be permitted to resort to violent methods; such a horse should be returned to the exercise track and also given more dismounted leading and gentling before he is mounted.

i. (1) The first lesson of the second day's work should now be terminated by requiring the remounts to be led about dis-

mounted for a few minutes and then lined up preparatory to falling out and returning to the stables.

(2) The second lesson of the second day's work should be a repetition of the above lesson, except that the riders, after mounting, remain a little longer in the saddle and cause the remount to move farther *forward on straight lines* than was required during the first lesson. The assistant still remains near the head of the remount and renders the rider any necessary assistance. The remount is not allowed to move out of the walk while being led about.

111. The use of the aids during the first period.—*a.* During the first period the use of the aids should be confined to three well-defined actions, which, in turn, should produce three simple effects. These actions and effects are:

(1) Action of the legs to cause the horse to move forward, to increase the pace, or to change to a faster gait.

(2) Action of the reins to cause the horse to change to a slower gait, to decrease the pace, or to halt.

(3) Action of the leading rein to cause the horse to change direction or to turn to the right or left about.

b. Once the remount is in motion, the reins should be used solely to maintain the direction and to regulate the speed of the gait; no attempt should be made to set the horse's head and neck in position or to relax the jaw or poll.

c. The remount should not be halted abruptly; to slow up or halt, the rider should use the reins of opposition intermittently until the horse obeys. In slowing up or halting the remount the rider's legs should not be used.

d. All changes of direction should be made on the arc of a large circle without insisting on exact correctness or accuracy of movement. In turning, the leading rein should be used exclusively; the opposite rein should be used as a light bearing rein to support the leading rein.

112. To teach the remount to submit to guidance and control.—*a.* Prior to requiring the following movements from the remount while being ridden outside the riding hall the movements listed below should be first taught the remount in the riding hall:

(1) To move forward; to halt.

(2) To turn to the right flank and to the left flank.

(3) To pass from the walk to the trot and from the trot to the walk.

(4) To turn to the right-about and to the left-about.

(5) To pass from the trot to the gallop and from the gallop to the trot.

b. To teach the remounts the above movements the officer in charge should, in general, be guided by the following procedure:

(1) The riders take the track at the walk, in rear of the man riding the most manageable remount, and without regard to distances. By appropriate commands the riders are required to halt, move forward again at the walk, halt, and so on repeatedly.

(2) The riders, still moving at the walk are next required to turn out of the column individually (when called by name) and halt on the median line of the riding hall; then move forward and regain a place in the column.

(3) The riders are next required to pass from the walk to the trot and from the trot to the walk repeatedly.

(4) Next the riders are required to execute the about by tracing in column the course of a wide serpentine, first at the walk, then at the trot.

(5) The riders are next required to pass from the trot to the gallop and from the gallop to the trot repeatedly.

(6) Lastly, the riders being on the track at the walk, they are required, individually, to pass from the front to the rear of the column; first, turning out of the column; and next, taking the trot and moving on the track to the tail of the column, where they again take the walk.

c. During the work outlined above there should be frequent short rests during which the rider dismounts and gentles his remount by petting, rubbing his legs, picking up his feet, etc. The remount is habitually required to stand still while the rider mounts and dismounts.

SECTION III

SECOND PERIOD (SECOND WEEK)

113. Conditioning.—*a.* Conditioning is continued along the same general lines as during the first week. (See par. *104*, Sec. II.) The object is to fit the remount for field service. This service imposes two major requirements upon the horse: First, that he be able to march long distances, day after day, at a rate of 4 or 5 miles per hour; second, that he be able to carry,

while marching, the weight of the rider and his equipment, totaling approximately 250 pounds.

b. (1) To be fit for marching the horse must have three essentials: First, he must have good feet; second, he must have good legs; and, finally, he must be in good flesh, i. e., he must have plenty of flesh and this flesh must be fairly solid.

(2) Good feet result from close attention to the shoeing and trimming of the feet, their frequent inspection each day, and the maintenance of clean, level standings. (See ch. 3, Use and Care of Animals.)

(3) Good legs are secured by avoiding fast work, particularly on hard or uneven ground. Many remounts are prone to interfere, especially while becoming accustomed to carrying weight. During this period it is quite important to watch for signs of interference on the horse's legs and protect the injured places by proper bandaging.

(4) For the remounts good flesh is secured and retained by long, daily periods of slow work. During this work *the walk* is the gait principally used. In addition to long periods of slow work it is important to give close attention to the feeding, watering, grooming, and bedding. Some remounts will stay fat while being worked on 6 pounds of grain per day. Others under the same work will lose flesh while being fed the full ration. Every effort should be made to build up the flesh of the thin remounts by increasing their grain and hay ration, by providing them with plenty of good drinking water, and by increasing the number of grain feeds per day.

c. To fit the remount for carrying his heavy load in the field it is necessary that the flesh and skin of his back be seasoned and toughened to withstand heavy pressure, heat, and sweat. In addition the back muscles must be developed and strengthened for their weight-carrying job. To accomplish the above results it is essential that the remount receive the major portion of his training while carrying rider and full field equipment.

114. Objective of each day's work.—*a.* In general terms, the object of each day's training during the second period should be as follows:

First day.—To accustom the remount to the curb bit; to accustom the remount to the pistol and saber being drawn, returned, and handled by the rider while moving at the walk; to improve the handiness of the remount while changing gaits

and executing turns when moving at the walk and trot; to teach the remount to respond to the bearing rein; to teach the remount to obey the combined aids; to accustom the remount to carrying the rider over obstacles 1 foot high at the walk and trot.

Second day.—To improve and confirm the training given on the first day.

Third day.—To accustom the remount to the pistol and saber being drawn, returned, and handled (including pointing of the pistol and thrusts of the saber) while moving at the trot; to improve the handiness of the remount while changing gaits and executing turns at the trot and the gallop; to accustom the remount to carrying the rider over obstacles 1½ feet high at the trot; to teach the remount to eat from the feed bag; to teach the remount to lead when linked in column of fours.

Fourth day.—To improve the training of the remount in having the pistol and saber handled when moving at the trot; to improve the handiness of the remount while changing gaits and executing turns at the trot and the gallop; to accustom the remount to carrying the rider over obstacles 2 feet high at the trot; to improve the training of the remount in leading linked in column of fours.

Fifth day.—To accustom the remount to the pistol and saber being handled and used while moving at the gallop on the prescribed pistol and saber courses; to improve the handiness of the remount in executing all movements at the walk, trot, and gallop; to accustom the remount to carrying the rider at the gallop over obstacles 2 feet high.

Sixth day.—Review of all previous training.

115. Program of daily training.—*a.* During the second week the use of the herding track is discontinued except for practicing the remounts in jumping.

b. The remounts should receive two training lessons per day, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The length of each lesson period should be about two hours. In general, the first 45 minutes of each lesson should be used for riding-hall instruction. Any remaining time should be spent in riding on the road, cross-country riding, or drill.

c. After each lesson the remounts are thoroughly groomed and their feet handled.

d. While riding across country or on the road the remounts are frequently practiced in close and extended order drill for-

mations. While riding across country the formations assumed should generally be such that each remount is well separated from the others. Thus the remounts are accustomed to going freely in any direction when alone.

e. While engaged in riding-hall work the men should generally be required to ride without fixed distances.

f. The men ride with spurs except when jumping. The remounts are equipped with bit and bridoon bridles and carry full pack field equipment.

g. Each day's training should generally include a thorough review of all previous training prior to taking up any new exercises.

h. The exercises which follow constitute the subject matter from which the officer in charge should make up his program of daily training.

116. To accustom the remount to the packsaddle and to submit to conditions of field service.—*a.* During the first week of training the remounts are gradually accustomed to the presence on their backs of the various items of full-pack field equipment. During the second week of training the remounts should be required to carry this equipment during all their work in order that the weight-carrying muscles of their backs may become stronger and the skin and flesh of their backs may become somewhat seasoned to the pressure, friction, heat, and sweat caused by the full packsaddle.

b. During marches across country and on the road the riders should be frequently required to dismount and lead. The horses should be trained to lead forward at a brisk walk at the rate of approximately 4 miles per hour. Those remounts that are inclined to lag back should be urged to walk faster by means of light touches on the hind quarters from a switch carried in the rider's left hand. Some practice should also be given over low obstacles and ditches.

c. In order that the remounts may become accustomed to eating their grain from the feed bag, they should be fed once a day for two or three days in this manner. Care and patience must be used in first putting on the bags so as to avoid frightening the horses.

d. While marching in any formation the remounts should be accustomed to leaving ranks. This training may be accomplished by directing individual riders to leave the formation, ride to a designated place, and then rejoin.

117. To accustom the remounts to arms.—*a.* During the second week the pistol and saber should be drawn by the rider while mounted and these weapons handled at the various gaits.

b. To accustom the remounts to the pistol being handled, the men first practice drawing, pointing, and returning the pistol while riding at the various gaits; next the remounts are ridden quietly on the mounted pistol course while the riders simulate fire on the targets; finally the horses are ridden on the mounted pistol course while the riders fire a few shots to the right and left.

c. To accustom the remounts to the saber being handled, the men ride the horses at a walk past the dummies on the saber course, executing slow, quiet thrusts. When the remounts become accustomed to this exercise similar practice is given at the trot and the gallop.

118. To train the remount to submit more willingly and easily to guidance and control.—*a.* During the second period the training prescribed for the first period (paragraph 112, To teach the remount to submit to guidance) should be continued so as to increase the handiness and willingness of the remount while executing forward movements, halts, changes of gait, and changes of direction. Through much practice of these exercises the horse gradually learns to engage his haunches properly, develops and strengthens his muscles, and acquires a correct carriage of his head and neck. In this manner the horse slowly acquires a true balance free from bad habits and unnatural posture.

b. All training in starting, stopping, and turning should follow a gradual and well-ordered progression; carried to excess, such training may injure the horse's joints or tendons and destroy his tranquillity.

c. The basis of all training outlined in this paragraph is *freedom* in the *forward* movement.

119. Accustoming the remount to the effect of the bit and bridoon.—During the first few days' work with the curb bit and snaffle it is better to go chiefly out of doors. Any work indoors should be mild in character, nothing of an exacting nature being demanded of the horse until he has fully accepted and goes well into the bit and bridoon. There is now great danger that the young horse may "get behind the bit." This must be most carefully guarded against by the officer in charge

and by each rider. In all exercises and work the reins should be held lightly taut and quite long, a lighter pressure on the curb than on the snaffle. The horse should be encouraged, by tactful use of the legs, to extend his head and neck to the front and to maintain against the bit a steady pressure. During periods of rest, whether standing still or while moving, the reins should not be held taut; they should be allowed to swing loose, thus according the horse full liberty to relax.

120. Manner of applying the aids.—*a.* During the second period the rider should begin to use the aids in combination on the remount.

b. To start the horse, to change to a faster gait, or to increase the speed of a gait the legs and weight should be used in combination. Conversely, to stop the horse, to change to a slower gait, or to decrease the speed of a gait the reins and weight should be used in combination. In turning the horse the effect of the leading rein should be more and more reinforced by the effect of the bearing rein; in addition the weight and legs should be used in combination to effect the change of direction.

121. To train the remount to jump obstacles.—*a.* The dimensions of the obstacles should be increased in proportion to the progress of the horse. The eventual limit for high jumps is 3 feet and for broad jumps 8 feet. Obstacles without wings should have ample width of front so as not to tempt the remount to avoid jumping by passing around the obstacle.

b. The training of remounts to jump should be conducted in the same general manner as prescribed in Chapter I for teaching the recruits to jump.

c. In teaching the green horse to jump he should first be practiced over small obstacles at the walk and trot without the rider on his back. After considerable practice in this method of jumping the same training is repeated with the rider on his back. While receiving this training the remount should not be sent careening over the obstacles. He should, on the other hand, be allowed to approach the obstacle calmly and learn to jump by exertion rather than by a flying leap. When trained in this manner the remount develops the muscles of his hind quarters, loins, back, and shoulders; learns how to use his head and neck as a balance; and acquires sureness in handling his feet. Having completed the above training, the remount is ready for training in taking the jumps at the gallop.

d. In conformity with the training scheme outlined above the remounts should continue, during the second week, to receive daily training in jumping low obstacles on the herding track without the riders on their backs. The height of the jumps should be increased 2 or 3 inches each day until they are 3 feet high near the end of the week. In order to provide practice over a ditch jump, such an obstacle should be constructed across the herding track. The ditch should be approximately 3 feet deep and 5 feet wide to start with. Each day this jump should be increased in width about 6 inches until, by the end of the week, it is approximately 8 feet wide.

e. In addition to the training in jumping without the riders on their backs the remounts are given a little training each day in jumping low obstacles with the riders up. For this training the jumps are kept at least 6 inches lower than the jumps without the riders on their backs.

f. In approaching an obstacle at the walk or trot the horse should be permitted to hurry his last few steps in order to acquire a little spring and momentum. In jumping small obstacles at the gallop the speed of the gait should be moderate and the horse should jump in his galloping stride without increasing the speed before or after taking the jump.

SECTION IV

THIRD PERIOD (THIRD AND FOURTH WEEKS)

122. Program of daily training.—*a.* When time is available it is desirable that the remounts receive two training lessons per day, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The length of each lesson period should be about two hours. The first 45 minutes or each lesson period should be utilized in riding-hall training. The remaining time of each lesson period should be spent in work out of doors, such as drill, cross-country riding, mounted pistol and saber work, and short practice marches.

b. The major portion of all instruction should be given without requiring the riders to maintain fixed distances and intervals.

c. The men ride with spurs. The remounts are equipped with bit and bridoon bridles and carry full field equipment.

d. The herding track is used each day to give the remounts added practice in jumping low obstacles not over 3 feet high or 8 feet wide.

123. Objective of each day's work.—In general the objective of each day's work should be threefold: First, to improve the physical condition of the remount; second, to improve his handiness and balance; and, third, to improve his training for mounted saber and pistol work.

124. To improve the physical condition of the remount.—The remount's physical condition is improved by continued slow work and unremitting attention to his feeding, watering, bedding, grooming, shoeing, and clipping. In addition the remounts should be taken on short practice marches every second or third day, starting with a march of 5 miles and gradually increasing the distance to approximately 15 miles.

125. To improve the handiness and balance of the remount.—*a.* In order to improve the handiness and balance of the remount, more marked obedience to the aids should be demanded by the riders in executing the movements prescribed for the first and second periods. To increase the scope of this training the following additional exercises should be used: Abouts, broken lines, figures of 8, individual circles, and the half turn. For a description of these movements see Chapter I, Equitation.

b. In executing the above exercises the remount should be frequently ridden with the reins in one hand.

c. For the specific purposes indicated below these exercises may be classified as follows:

(1) *To obtain engagement of the hind quarters.*—Increasing and decreasing the pace; passing from the walk to the trot, the trot to the gallop, and vice versa; broken lines, serpentines, circles, and half turns, with the haunches following the track of the forehand at times and again with the hind quarters a little inside the track of the forehand. The false gallop should also be practiced, but always with the haunches tracking the forehand.

(2) *To obtain mobility of the haunches.*—Half turns in reverse executed slightly on the forehand; individual circles executed with the haunches disposed slightly to the outside.

(3) *To obtain suppleness of the spinal column.*—Laterally by galloping on a large circle the radius of which is reduced as

training progresses; vertically, by increasing and decreasing the pace, changing gaits, and half halts.

(4) *To obtain mobility of the shoulders and lightness of the forehand.*—Abouts, broken lines, and serpentines, causing the forehand to swing around the haunches as a movable pivot; the circle and figure of 8 with haunches inside; half turns executed on a shorter and shorter radius as training progresses.

126. To improve the training of the remount for pistol and saber work.—The training of remounts to accustom them to the use of the pistol and saber should be continued during the third period by daily work on the mounted pistol and saber courses. Generally from 15 to 20 minutes of this work each day will be ample. Horses which are nervous should be given this instruction at slow gaits until they become quiet; then the gallop may be used.

127. Repetition and review of previous work.—All work given during the third period is directed toward the improvement of the training imparted during the first two periods. For this reason all the training given during the first two periods should be repeated during the third period.